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GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR — APRIL 1, 1986-MARCH 31, 1987

Published under the Authority of
the Honourable Glenn Tobin
Minister of Social Services

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the
Deputy Minister

ST. JOHN'S

Honourable Glenn Tobin,
Minister of Social Services,

Dear Sir:

I have the honour of submitting herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the financial year ending March 31, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Marshall

Elizabeth Marshall, C.A.,
Deputy Minister

Attach.

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Minister

ST. JOHN'S

Honourable James A. McGrath, P.C., LL.D.,
Lieutenant Governor,
Government House,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Your Honour:

I have the pleasure of submitting herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the financial year ending March 31, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

GLENN TOBIN,
Minister

Attach.

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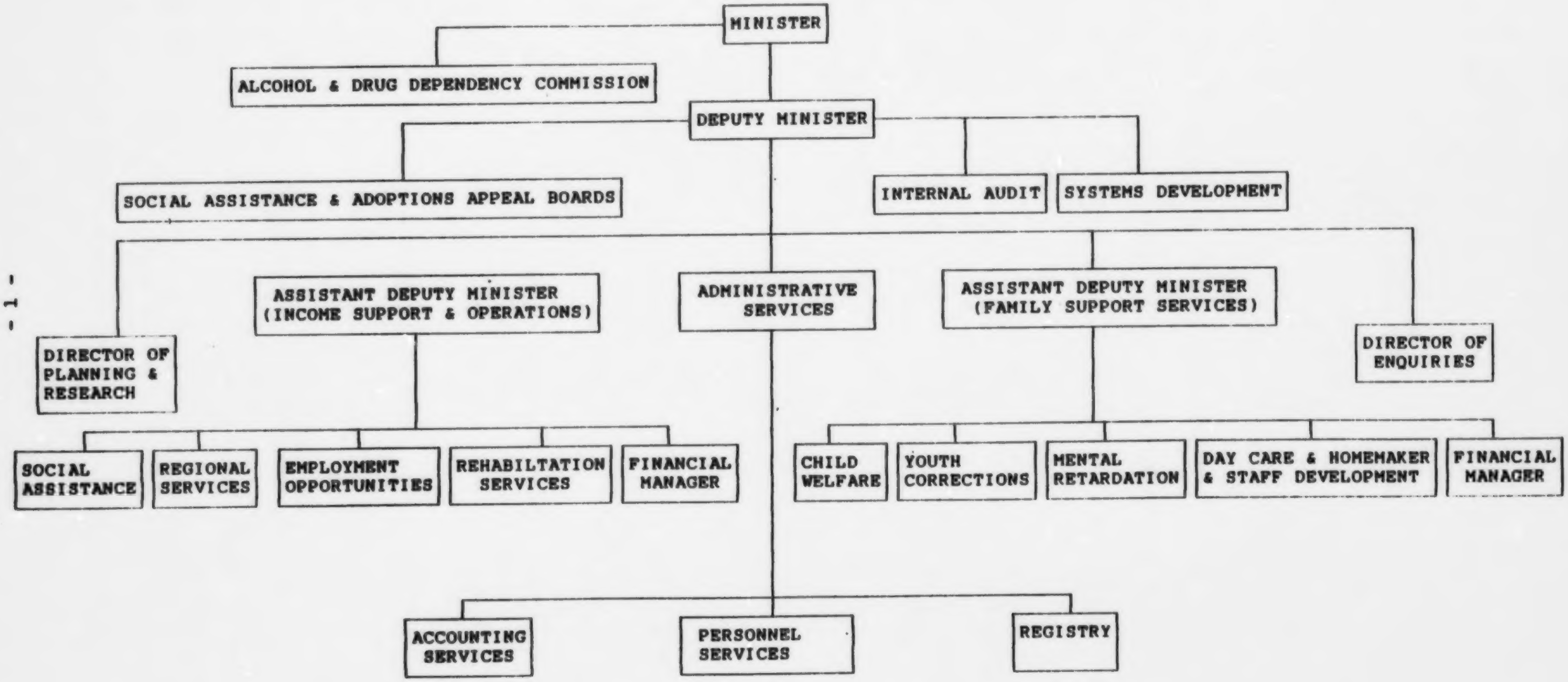
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Annual Report of the Department of Social Services to be published since 1975. For the intervening years, compilations of statistics and information have been completed.

The Annual Report has a twofold purpose:

1) To account to Government and the general public for the activities of the Department during the year with emphasis on program changes and the underlying reasons for them, and

2) To provide a permanent record of the year's work for future research and teaching purposes aimed at improved services to persons in need.

The Department of Social Services is a province-wide organization with five Regional and fifty-three District Offices throughout the Province. The Department is involved in providing financial assistance, material aid and a broad spectrum of Social Services to people in their own homes. The Department has a total staff of 1,100, 287 of whom are temporary employees.

The Department of Social Services is responsible for administering the following legislation:

The Social Assistance Act, 1977

The Social Assistance Regulations, 1984

The Child Welfare Act, Chapter 37 of RSN, 1972

The Child Welfare Regulations, 1981

The Adoption of Children Act, Chapter 36 of RSN, 1972

The Adoption of Children Regulations, 1981

The Children of Unmarried Parents Act, Chapter 33 of RSN, 1972

The Children of Unmarried Parents Regulations, 1966

The Day Care and Homemaker Services Act, 1975

The Day Care and Homemaker Services Regulations, 1982

The Young Persons Offences Act, 1984

The Government Reorganization Act, 1973

The Rehabilitation Act, 1978

The Social Workers Registration Act, 1979

The Department of Social Services Act, 1973

The Department is composed of the following main divisions:

1) Social Assistance
2) Employment Opportunities
3) Enquiries
4) Child Welfare
5) Youth Corrections
6) Day Care and Homemaker Services
7) Rehabilitation
8) Mental Retardation Services
9) Regional Services
10) Staff Development
11) Planning and Research
12) Administration

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The office of Planning and Research was created in June 1973, primarily to assist Senior Headquarters staff in their planning activities and to provide the Department with a research and analysis capability.

The major activities in the area of Planning and Research are outlined as follows:

- Coordinated the compilation of Briefing Books/material pertaining to Federal-Provincial and Inter-Provincial Task Forces, study groups and projects - e.g.,

  (1) Federal-Provincial Continuing Committee of officials,

  (2) Inter-Provincial Support Committee to the Conference of Deputy Ministers.

- Initiates research, analysis or study into relevant program/policy issues in collaboration with other Departmental Divisions - e.g., A Preliminary Evaluation of the Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention Unit which is based in St. John's.

- This office is the primary contact with the Provincial Department of Environment with respect to the Environmental Assessment Act. Concerning Environmental Assessment (or Socio-Economic Impact Assessment as it applies to the Department of Social Services) opinions are provided to the Department of Environment regarding the need for such in relation to project undertakings. Also, decisions are made relating to the degree and nature of staff involvement/participation by the Department of Social Services on the Assessment Committees established by the Minister of Environment.

- Represents the Department of Social Services on the Hibernia Construction Sites Environmental Management Committee, a major objective of which is to establish Environmental Protection Plans.

- The office of Planning and Research is the chair of the Department's Task Force that was established to initiate and coordinate proposals to be submitted to the Offshore Development Fund which was provided for by the Canada/Newfoundland Atlantic Accord. These proposals which address community based needs assessment, preventative social services and a multi-service centre have all been completed and submitted to the Offshore Development Fund Committee.

- The office is the provincial Co-Chair of the Evaluation Sub-Committee which coordinated and directed, in collaboration with Health and Welfare Canada, the development of a proposed framework for the evaluation of the Employment Enhancement Option of the Department's Employment Opportunities Program. Once completed, the framework will be considered for implementation.

- Participates on Joint Provincial Committees and Projects.

- Collected, analyzed, and organized information at the request of members of the Department's executive and other staff of the Department.
- Responds to requests from other government departments, universities, private and voluntary agencies, and the community for information, analyses and advice. Liaison is maintained with Social Planning Councils and agencies.
- Responsibility for the completion of the Annual Report of the Department.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

OBJECTIVES

The responsibility for the provision of financial assistance to persons in need is the responsibility of the provincial government in Newfoundland. The federal government contributes one-half of the cost of assistance payments through the Canada Assistance Plan.

The extent to which the Social Assistance Program is used is related directly to the availability of at least two major resources; namely, employment and social insurance. Because neither of these two resources is sufficient to take care of all our people, and even if they were, many would still be excluded, there would therefore be a need for the Social Assistance Program to take care of the remainder.

Social Assistance is the last line of defense for individuals and families who find themselves in "need" for a variety of reasons. The basic objectives of the program are to: (1) ensure individuals and families are protected from falling below a minimally accepted standard of living through the provision of financial assistance to those in need; (2) to assist certain target groups, e.g. disabled and elderly persons with extraordinary expenses, particularly those expenses which enable those individuals to remain in their own homes.

The main thrust of the program is to strengthen, preserve and maintain family life. Within the program there are many support services, including counselling services to enable individuals to achieve independence and self-sufficiency where possible and to improve general living conditions for families. In addition, the Department's Community Development Program has become a major resource for Social Assistance recipients in finding employment on various community projects.

REASONS FOR ASSISTANCE

The sole determinant of whether individuals or families receive Social Assistance is based on "need" as determined by a needs test. However, there are numerous reasons which cause people to apply for Social Assistance. Basically, when grouped together, they fall into two categories - reasons because of unemployment and reasons other than unemployment.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployed and underemployed have to seek assistance when no alternative source of income maintenance is available and when the income source is inadequate to maintain families. Lack of education and work skills are perhaps the most significant factors which negate employment opportunities among the able-bodied.

REASONS OTHER THAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Within this category there are a variety of reasons why people apply for assistance. There are the physical, mental and socially disabled whose disabilities could be of a temporary or permanent nature. Single parents, because of separation, desertion or divorce, often seek assistance in the absence of the bread winner when maintenance payments are not sufficient to maintain the family. Unmarried mothers and widows also are attached to this group and have the same problems. Others apply for assistance because of age, because they are attending educational institutions, or because the spouse is in a hospital or penal institution. Whatever the reason, able-bodied recipients in particular suffer from public disapproval that affects self-esteem which undermines the will and capacity for self-help. The Community Development Program, which provides employment for recipients, has helped to make the methods of providing Social Assistance more acceptable to the recipient and to the general public.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIVISION

The Division, through the Director, is responsible for the planning, evaluation, organizing and direction of the Social Assistance Program. These functions require close liaison with Regional Directors in identifying necessary changes and modifications to the program. A close liaison is necessary with field staff, headquarters staff, other provincial government departments, federal departments, private agencies, and the general public. Other tasks involve the preparation of annual estimates for budget purposes for the Social Assistance program, assessing program legislation and policy and recommending amendments and new legislation, writing program policy and writing the annual report on the Social Assistance Program.

HOW SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IS PAID

Social Assistance payments are basically approved and delivered by two separate methods: Computer generated cheques, and by manually prepared cheques through short-term assistance in district offices.

A. Computer Generated Cheques

This payment system is designed primarily for long-term recipients of Social Assistance whose reasons for assistance are other than unemployment. However, during recent years, increased efforts were made to maximize the benefits of the computer by paying people in other categories, particularly able-bodied cases who are expected to be in receipt of assistance for three months or longer. These cases are referred to as Short- Long-Term cases and, unlike long-term cases which are reviewed once yearly, these are reviewed every four months and more frequently when deemed necessary. The payments from the computer method of payment are made by cheque, twice monthly, direct to the recipient from Confederation Building. As of March 31, 1987, there are 11,210 cases paid through the computer system.

B. Manually Prepared Cheques

Manually prepared cheques are known as short-term assistance payments. This type of assistance is paid primarily to able-bodied recipients and those recipients in other categories who are likely to be in receipt of Social Assistance for a short period of time. These cheques are prepared by Social Workers and Social Assistance Workers and usually cover a period of thirty days; however, payments can cover shorter periods depending on the circumstances involved. Payments can also be made by voucher when it is determined that the recipient is not capable of using the assistance for the intended purpose. In certain cases, payments can be made to a trustee.

POLICY AND RATE CHANGES DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

1. Effective May 1986 - the program provided for a mother-baby food allowance of $37 per month for mothers and children during the period of pregnancy and up to one year after the child's birth.

2. Effective June 1986 - the program made provisions for a Rehabilitation Incentive Allowance ($175) exemption on Training Allowances for disabled persons undergoing sheltered workshop training.

3. Effective June 1986 - introduced a new Board & Lodging rate up to $600 per month for adults with special needs.

4. Effective June 1986 - increased Housekeeper Allowances from $45 per month with relatives and $60 with non-relatives to $200 and $250 per month respectively.

5. Effective June 1986 - increased Comfort Allowances from $65 to $90 per month for recipients in hospitals and various residential institutions.

6. Effective July 1986 - increased the Blind Persons' Supplement from $52 per month to $75 per month and also made provisions to pay this allowance to blind children.

7. Effective October 1986 - amended the regulations relating to eligibility of recipients - income of applicants applying for assistance was assessed for the previous 90 days prior to the date of application. The amended regulation now considers income of applicants during the previous 30 days from date of application.

8. The Government granted a 4 percent rate increase to recipients with effect from April 1, 1986. This increase was applied to all fixed rates within the program. The following table shows the rate increases granted since 1974 when Government restructured the Social Assistance Program.

TABLE I

1975-01-01	12.7%
1976-04-01	10.0
1977-05-01	6.0
1978-04-01	5.0
1979-06-01	7.0
1980-04-01	10.0
1981-05-01	10.0
1982-05-01	10.0
1983-05-01	6.0
1984-05-01	NIL
1985-05-01	4.0
1986-04-01	4.0

The following table shows Social Assistance monthly rates which are current for the year under review:

TABLE II

FAMILY SIZE		
ADULT	CHILDREN	MONTHLY RATES
1	0	$ 329
1	1	405
1	2	441
1	3	474
1	4	509
4	5	545
1	6	584
1	7	629
1	8	687
1	9+	772
2	0	452
2	1	486
2	2	517
2	3	552
2	4	584
2	5	629
2	6	676
2	7+	722
3	0	529
3	1	565
3	2	597
3	3	629
3	4	676
3	5+	722
4	0	609
4	1	643
4	2	676
4	3+	722

Rates shown in the forgoing table are to cover the cost of food, clothing, personal-care items, household maintenance and utilities.

Assistance may also be provided for board and lodging, transportation for medical reasons, repairs to houses, rent, mortgages, special diets, extra fuel for the Labrador Region during winter months, items of special need, housekeeper services, municipal taxes, legal aid, and burials.

PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Relationship between Social Assistance and Minimum Wage - One of the most important principles underlying the Social Assistance program is that a fair and just relationship exists between Social Assistance benefits and income derived from minimum wage.

2. Unified Social Assistance Program - Another important principle on which the Social Assistance program is founded is that of equal treatment for all needy persons regardless of the reason for the need.

3. Incentives - It should profit a person to work. To this end, Government has extended its Social Assistance Incentives program that combines wages and Social Assistance benefits, thus enabling recipients to earn because of the extra profit to be gained.

4. Increases - Social Assistance rates increases are indexed as closely as possible to the cost-of-living increases and the minimum wage.

5. Single Persons - Special attention is being paid to single able-bodied persons and childless couples who seek assistance. Before assistance is provided, Social Workers pay particular attention to job opportunities within or outside the province, training and upgrading opportunities, and every other alternative to granting assistance in such cases.

6. Special Services - An integral part of the Social Assistance program is emphasis on service. Counselling and budgeting services are available to those who need them. Emphasis is placed very heavily on upgrading and retraining through Federal Manpower programs and the Employment Opportunities Division of the Department of Social Services.

7. Program Abuse - Where there is reason to believe that a person may have obtained assistance under false pretenses or has failed to provide the necessities of life and, as a result, assistance has to be provided, prosecution action may be considered.

8. Services to various target groups - The program is especially aware of the needs of the elderly and the disabled who have special needs that must be fulfilled in order for them to remain in their own homes.

CASELOADS AND COSTS

The table on the following page shows the combined number of one person units and family units, both short-term and long-term recipients, who received Social Assistance, and the cost for the year ended as compared with the previous four years.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF UNITS - BASIC SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Average Number of Units Each Month

1982-04-01 to 1983-03-31	20,215
1983-04-01 to 1984-03-31	21,242
1984-04-01 to 1985-03-31	20,942
1985-04-01 to 1986-03-31	20,591
1986-04-01 to 1987-03-31	21,014

Expenditure - Basic Social Assistance

1982-04-01 to 1983-03-31	$ 79,798,602.25
1983-04-01 to 1984-03-31	86,200,000.00
1984-04-01 to 1985-03-31	85,500,000.00
1985-04-01 to 1986-03-31	90,044,000.00
1986-04-01 to 1987-03-31	101,600,000.00

TABLE IV

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE CASELOAD

	1985-86		1986-87	
	ABLE-BODIED	OTHER	ABLE-BODIED	OTHER
April	4906	16045	5562	15480
May	4934	16425	4918	15890
June	4204	15533	4911	15420
July	4500	15892	4870	15479
August	4698	15818	4567	14724
September	5052	15885	5770	15615
October	5809	15179	6299	15381
November	5891	15124	6440	15826
December	5637	15228	6010	15187
January	5695	15363	6076	16055
February	4909	14678	5339	15150
March	4948	14749	5629	15769
TOTAL	61183	185919	66391	185976

The average monthly caseload increased by 423 cases from the previous fiscal year in spite of the fact that some 14,000 recipients found empoyment on Community Development Projects. Without this program the Social Assistance caseload would have been significantly higher throughout the year. The increase in the caseload is basically confined to the able-bodied category while the segment of the caseload relating to those who receive Social Assistance for reasons other than unemployment remained unchanged.

The increase in the expenditure was mainly due to the 4 percent increase in allowances of recipients. Other contributing factors are: the increase in caseload, more applicants are paying rent and mortgages, the costs of transportation, special needs, additional emergency assistance and day care services. Also, expenditures to enable persons to purchase supportive services so that they can remain in their own homes as opposed to seeking institutional placement have increased dramatically.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Social Assistance legislation also makes provisions for the following:

(a) Additional Social Assistance up to $52 a month to a family or individual in special circumstances such as illness, special educational needs, etc.

(b) Emergency and disaster assistance.

(c) Items of special need such as wheelchairs and other rehabilitative items not supplied through other sources.

(d) Transportation for needy sick persons.

(e) Assistance to stranded persons.

(f) Burial assistance in cases of need to relatives of a deceased person or to an undertaker when a deceased person has no relatives, when no relatives will accept responsibility.

(g) Additional monthly Fuel Allowance during the period of November to April inclusive to needy families in Labrador. This rate increases each year as the general Social Assistance rate is increased.

(h) A monthly Comforts Allowance to needy persons who are hospitalized. This rate increases each year as the general Social Assistance rate increases.

(i) Board and lodging and clothing and personal care to a person in a home for special care approved for that purpose by the Canada Assistance Plan.

(j) Board and lodging and clothing and personal care to a person boarding with relatives or non-relatives in private homes.

(k) Assistance to handicapped persons who may wish to attend vocational school or university.

(l) Additional assistance up to $75 a month to blind persons including children.

(m) A monthly Mother-Baby Food Allowance is provided to give women in receipt of Social Assistance the means to purchase foods necessary for proper nutrition during pregnancy, and up to one year after the birth of the child.

(n) Assistance to enable the aged and the incapacitated to remain in their own homes.

(o) Appeals against decisions of officials of this Department.

(p) Special diet allowances for diabetics.

(q) Payment of legal aid services.

(r) Payment of municipal taxes.

(s) Special Needs Test regulations for disabled individuals and families with disabled children.

HOUSING

The primary concern of the Department continues to be the provision of emergency housing for needy persons. This limitation is influenced by the provision of the Canada Assistance Plan Agreement, whereby cost sharing is restricted to limited types of assistance.

Assistance is provided as follows:

1. Rent up to $312 a month for a family living in a rented house or apartment.
2. Payment of mortgage, including interest and principal, up to $312 a month.
3. Materials and labour to repair houses owned by needy persons in receipt of Social Assistance in urgent situations.
4. In extenuating circumstances, houses may be purchased by the Department of Social Services with prior approval of Treasury Board. In these situations, the houses are subsequently purchased from the Department by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation who in turn will receive rental payments from this department as long as the occupant has eligibility for assistance.

The following table shows a breakdown of housing assistance provided during the past fiscal year as compared with the previous fiscal year:

TABLE V

TYPE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE	COST 1985-86	 1986-87
Rent and Mortgage	$ 12,372,920.00	$ 15,768,695.00
Repairs including labour	$ 1,860,343.00	$ 1,771,599.00

It should be noted from the preceding table that there was an increase in the rent and mortgage expenditure as compared with the previous fiscal year. This increase is due to the fact that more and more persons seeking assistance have rent or mortgage needs.

INVESTIGATIONS

During the year under review Social Workers and Social Assistance Workers continued to investigate suspected cases of abuse to ensure continued eligibility of recipients.

Abuse can be categorized into three separate offences; namely, failure to provide, false pretenses, and family unit relationships. Suspected cases of abuse are referred to the Regional Director for investigation and possible referral to the courts.

The following table is a breakdown of the investigations for the year under review as compared to the previous year:

TABLE VI

INVESTIGATIONS	1985-86	1986-87
Failure to Provide	25	21
False Pretenses	214	192
Family Unit Relationships	236	321

ENQUIRIES

The Enquiries Division was established in 1969 and embraces many related problems. It is widely used by both recipients of services from this department and third-party enquirers.

This service is used on a regular basis by Members of the House of Assembly and Members of Parliament as, quite often, constituents who are in financial need or those who feel they are unfairly treated by the Department of Social Services contact their Members. Many of the issues or problems are resolved in the Enquiries Division by giving the basic information, by interpretation of policy or explaining the action that has been or will be taken by this department.

The Director attends to written enquiries, answers all telephone enquiries, and conducts all personal interviews with those enquirers who visit headquarters.

The following table represents the volume and the type of work performed in the Division during the fiscal year April 1, 1986, to March 31, 1987, as compared to the 1985-1986 fiscal year.

TABLE I

	CORRESPONDENCE		TELEPHONE		INTERVIEWS		TOTAL ACTION	
	85/86	86/87	85/86	86/87	85/86	86/87	85/86	86/87
April*	123	44*	254	116*	24	8*	401	168*
May	155	77	215	205	25	12	395	294
June	99	119	172	217	5	12	276	348
July	130	120	95	292	9	20	234	432
August	136	45	231	261	14	16	381	322
September**	121	5**	260	25**	25	2**	406	32**
October	81	66	216	235	18	20	315	321
November	66	88	209	187	16	12	291	287
December	37	14	170	111	14	5	221	130
January 1987	112	68	165	160	9	8	286	236
February	75	156	152	202	13	13	240	371
March***	19***	51	89***	243	6***	16	114***	310
TOTALS	1154	853	2228	2254	178	144	3560	3251

* Statistics from April 7 - April 30, 1986

** No statistics taken from September 3 - September 26, 1986

*** Statistics from period March 1 - March 18, 1986

The above reduced statistics noted by the asterisks were due to a labour dispute.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Employment Opportunities Program was created as a Division of the Department of Social Services in July, 1972. The need for a program to promote and enhance the employability of Social Assistance recipients became evident during the late 1960's in response to a significant increase in the rate of the unemployed and a subsequent increase in the need for, and dependency on, Social Assistance throughout the province. It was also recognized that recipients of Social Assistance were ready, willing, and able to work but required job experience and a recent work history to remain competitive in the labour market.

The program was initially established to provide counselling services and job search techniques which would lead to job finding and placement. This was done by mobilizing the services of a selected number of Social Services staff who utilized available resources of the community and the various government departments. Although initial efforts produced favourable results, it became evident that many Social Assistance recipients required a recent work history in order to compete effectively in the job market.

The recognition of the need to provide clients with an actual work experience, which would complement the job counselling and motivational services, led to the creation of a Community Development Program during the 1975-76 fiscal year. The addition of this new program permitted the use of direct funding to pay salary and selected operating costs which offered an opportunity to place clients into actual work situations.

The mandate of the Division is to:

> Provide meaningful training and employment opportunities for Social Assistance recipients through the efficient utilization of federal/provincial government training and employment programs, as well as community and departmental resources.

It is felt this mandate will also allow for the development and promotion of beneficial agency and community activities. In line with the primary purpose for the creation of the Division, the following objectives are considered to be attainable:

A. The re-integration of social assistance into the work force.

B. The improvement of social-economic conditions in depressed areas of the province due to long-term unemployment.

C. Cooperation with other government departments (provincial/federal), communities and organizations in combatting the effects of unemployment.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Program has grown significantly during each year of operation since it was established. Funding for the 1986-87 fiscal year amounted to approximately $29,000,000 and permitted the placement of 11,942 persons into direct employment. Table I - III will serve to illustrate the project activity, regional involvement, and expenditures during the year.

TABLE I
PROVINCIAL

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

	JOB PLACEMENTS	NO. OF PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Community Development	7945	687	$ 20,775,811
Regional Services	1220	143	4,394,902
Social Assistance	916	106	3,586,615
Carry-overs from 1985-86	1861	-	-
TOTAL	11,942	936	$ 28,757,328

TABLE II - A
REGIONAL

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

ST. JOHN'S REGION	JOB PLACEMENTS	NO. OF PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Community Development	1844	205	$ 5,124,315
Regional Services	328	36	1,192,344
Social Assistance	112	19	695,694
Carry-overs from 1985-86	457	-	-
TOTAL	2741	260	$ 7,012,353

TABLE II - B
REGIONAL

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

EASTERN REGION	JOB PLACEMENTS	NO. OF PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Community Development	2180	169	$ 4,965,988
Regional Services	151	28	647,764
Social Assistance	175	20	605,707
Carry-overs from 1985-1986	414	-	-
TOTAL	2920	217	$ 6,219,459

TABLE II - C
REGIONAL

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

CENTRAL REGION	JOB PLACEMENTS	NO. OF PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Community Development	1930	193	$ 4,371,291
Regional Services	257	28	742,835
Social Assistance	206	22	618,110
Carry-overs from 1985-86	541	-	-
TOTAL	2934	243	$ 5,732,236

TABLE II - D
REGIONAL

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

WESTERN REGION	JOB PLACEMENTS	NO. OF PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Community Development	1529	82	$ 4,951,201
Regional Services	398	40	1,371,543
Social Assistance	393	39	1,478,167
Carry-overs from 1985-86	362	-	-
TOTAL	2682	161	$ 7,800,911

TABLE II - E
REGIONAL

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

LABRADOR	JOB PLACEMENTS	NO. OF PROJECTS	EXPENDITURES
Community Development	462	38	$ 1,363,016
Regional Services	86	11	440,416
Social Assistance	30	6	188,937
Carry-overs from 1985-86	87	-	-
TOTAL	665	55	$ 1,992,369

TABLE III
JOB PLACEMENT BY REGION AND CATEGORY

April 1, 1986 - March 31, 1987

REGION	FAMILY HEAD	SINGLE PARENTS	DISABLED PERSONS	OTHER	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
St. John's	746	656	476	406	$ 7,012,353
Eastern	1423	652	245	186	6,219,459
Central	1187	630	288	288	5,732,236
Western	1073	831	222	194	7,800,911
Labrador	448	53	50	27	1,992,369
TOTAL	4877	2822	1281	1101	$ 28,757,328

In addition, it is estimated that approximately 1,000 Social Assistance recipients were successful in obtaining employment with community groups or agencies and with other government departments as a result of counselling and referrals of divisional staff.

EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

An additional significant event in the evolution of the program was witnessed on August 28, 1986, with the signing of a Federal/Provincial Agreement to further enhance the training and work placement of Social Assistance recipients. This three-year experimental agreement provided an allocation of $4,000,000 with an option of mutually adding an additional $1,000,000 during each year to March, 1989. The agreed level of funding is to be shared equally between both governments, while responsibility for expenditures is based on a negotiated split during each year of operation.

The agreement requires a four-cornered approach with input from two federal departments: Health and Welfare Canada, and Canada Employment and Immigration; and two provincial departments: Social Services, and Career Development and Advanced Studies.

During the year under review, a total of $5,000,000 was provided with the province assuming responsibility for 65 % of the expenditure for a total of $3.25 million. The remaining 35 %, $1.75 million, was allocated to Canada Employment and Immigration for the employment and training of Social Assistance recipients.

The agreement is considered to be very significant in that it requires appropriate training components to be identified as a part of all placements. It also allows for the hiring of Social Assistance recipients who are not normally considered for placements under the guidelines of the regular Community Development Program such as single able-bodied recipients and childless couples.

An essential requirement in fulfilling the mandate of the agreement is the cooperation which must exist between the provincial and federal personnel to ensure a coordination of efforts in the promotion and approval of appropriate training components and job placements. It is felt this approach will further enhance the employability of Social Assistance recipients while promoting worthwhile community projects.

Table IV will illustrate the involvement of both levels of government during the fiscal year.

TABLE IV
EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Provincial

REGION	NO. OF PROJECTS	NO. OF JOB PLACEMENTS	EXPENDITURES
St. John's	67	404	$ 1,270,399
Eastern	44	384	1,210,550
Central	35	326	808,173
Western	46	347	1,239,688
Labrador	14	111	451,935
TOTAL	206	1572	$ 4,980,745

Federal

	NO. OF PROJECTS	NO. OF JOB PLACEMENTS	EXPENDITURES
Job Development	31	228	$ 1,350,000
Job Entry/ Re-entry	5	87	400,000
TOTAL	36	315	$ 1,750,000
TOTAL FEDERAL/ PROVINCIAL	242	1887	$ 6,730,745

ADMINISTRATION

The Division's staff, as of March 31, 1987, consisted of six permanent positions including the Director, Assistant Director, one Provincial Coordinator, an Accountant, a Payroll Supervisor, and one Clerk Stenographer. Twelve temporary staff, along with several support staff, were also assigned to assist in the administrative and payroll duties of the Division.

In an effort to ensure the program is being effectively delivered throughout the province, an additional 117 temporary positions have been assigned to the various regional and district offices to assist the regular staff complement in the performance of the Employment Opportunities duties. Salaries for these positions are provided from the special projects funding of the Division.

Several major changes occurred in the Division's staffing positions during the year. The Director, Mr. Augustus Vaughan, who was appointed at the time the program was created in 1972, officially retired on June 30, 1986, and was replaced by Mr. Calvin Payne, effective September 2, 1986. As well, the positions of Provincial Coordinator, Accountant and Payroll Supervisor that had previously been considered temporary were given permanent status and filled during the year.

CHILD WELFARE

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Child Welfare Program is comprised of a range of services which addresses the safety, well being and development of children as well as the preservation and strengthening of the family. The statutory authority through which these services are provided is contained in the Child Welfare Act, the Adoption Act and the Children of Unmarried Parents Act. Included in the program are services relating to child protection, child care, family support, child paternity and maintenance, adoptions and services to single parents.

The family is perceived as the most appropriate institution in society for the care and protection of children and attention is therefore directed towards those families that are experiencing problems which, if left unresolved, will threaten their stability as well as the security and well-being of their members. Emphasis is placed on the development and implementation of those services which will enhance family living and strengthen parental abilities to provide suitable child care.

The aim of the Department of Social Services is to expand its staff of qualified and well-trained Social Workers to provide a high level of in-depth casework and supportive counselling to families and children. There is also a greater effort being made to develop a coordinated approach to include other government departments and the community in an attempt to expand and increase family services. Society has realized that the planning and development of social services which will strengthen the family and protect children will be greatly enhanced by community understanding and participation.

For children who have to be removed from their families, every effort is made to secure the most suitable community placement for them. Members of the extended family continue to be an important resource in such cases, and research has shown that the number of children residing with relatives will more than double those receiving care inn other placements.

FOSTER HOMES

The Foster Home Program is also a significant resource for the placement of children who come into care. These homes are established throughout the entire province and make it possible to place children in or near their community. Special Foster Homes also operate to care for children with special needs. Through the development of these special homes, more children are able to reside in a family type setting where they receive more individual attention. In addition to preventing more institutional placements, this program has assisted in the return of many children back to the community and their families.

GROUP HOMES

Plans for expansion of the Group Home Program continued during the period under review and steps were taken in the development of two additional special types of Group Homes for Child Welfare cases. These homes, when operational, will accommodate young persons with behavioral problems and will be located in the St. John's Region. The expected date of opening these homes is 1987-06-01.

MOUNT CASHEL

The Christian Brothers operate a facility known as Mount Cashel which accommodates approximately sixty boys who are of school age. This facility provides placement for mostly older boys and has also been utilized to place groups of boys from the same families. Programming for residents of Mount Cashel places a great deal of emphasis on academic and vocational training. The Christian Brothers also focus attention on the importance of a warm and secure home setting, and they provide for the recreational and social development of the children entrusted to their care.

ADOPTIONS

Adoptions in Newfoundland are administered and implemented by the Department of Social Services under the Adoptions Act of 1972. The program focuses on four main client groups - parents who relinquish their children for adoption, children who are available for adoption, the adoptive parents, and the adoptees who are looking for background information when they reach maturity. The Adoption Act requires that all adoptions be processed through the Department of Social Services. The program involves three separate functions - the processing of adoption applications, the selection of children for approved couples, and the supervision of the placement and finalization by the court.

PRESENT PICTURE

The current adoptions caseload including regular, relative, interprovincial and international adoptions, totals 1,279 as compared to last year's 1,053. During the year, 323 new applications were received, 279 were approved, 33 were either rejected or withdrawn, 172 placements were made or recognized (including relative), 187 adoptions were finalized, with an additional 65 awaiting finalization as of 1987-03-31. Due to the ongoing and considerable unavailability of young infants for adoption, emphasis continues to be placed on the adoption of older and special needs children, and sibling groups and the numbers of such placements are gradually increasing.

During the past fiscal year, six children in the one to five year old range were adopted. Five of these children comprised sibling groups of two and three, and the other child consisted of a boy over five years of age. Another sibling group of two children, aged nine and ten, as well as a special needs eight year old boy, were also placed for adoption, but these placements were not finalized.

INTERPROVINCIAL/INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

A close liaison between this division with the National Adoption Desk in Ottawa and the Atlantic Adoption Exchange in Halifax continues to exist. The Adoption Bulletin is sent directly from Ottawa to all District Offices and the Regional Offices to advise field staff as to the availability of older/special needs children across the country. As well, information is sent periodically from both these exchanges on children available for adoption in other countries. They tend to be getting an increased number of international adoptions, particularly from Filipino couples living in Newfoundland who make application to adopt relatives' children back in the Philippines. Those applications have to meet with our criteria for approval initially and are then channeled on to the appropriate country for approval by International Social Services in Ottawa. There was one international adoption transferred and finalized here during the past year.

RELATIVE ADOPTIONS

Relative or stepparent adoptions involve children who are residing with relatives who wish to adopt them. While they are not in the care of the Director of Child Welfare, serious consideration is given to processing these applications to ensure that adoption is in the best interest of the child. As a result of a major change in policy which became effective March, 1986, stepparent adoptions requiring the consent of the noncustodial parent have become much less onerous for this department to process. The policy change resulted in placing the responsibility to obtain the noncustodial parent's consent or a court order dispensing with same, solely with the adoptive applicants. When either the consent of the noncustodial parent is provided by the applicants, or a court order dispensing with same, the application can be processed as a straightforward relative adoption.

ADOPTION PARENTING GROUPS

Following the success of the parenting course for adoptive parents which was piloted in the St. John's Region last year by the Department of Social Services and the Division of Public Health, an independent Social Worker outside the Department has been contracted to devise a parenting package which will enable Social Workers in the field to run their own parenting groups. Once completed, it is hoped that the package will enable workers to implement parenting groups for adoptive parents in all regions. As well, an Adoptive Parents Association is presently in the formulation stage which, when formed, will serve as a support/lobby forum for adoptive parents outside the jurisdiction of the Department.

THE ADOPTIONS APPEAL BOARD

The Adoptions Appeal Board was formed to process appeals from adoptive applicants who are dissatisfied with the decision made by the Director of Child Welfare concerning their application. There were several applications rejected in the past fiscal year but no appeals, which would reflect that Social Workers are continuing to utilize their skills in evaluating applicants so that applicants are provided with a clear understanding of why their applications were not approved. The legislation which provides for this kind of appeal is unique in Canada.

PROMOTIONS

While the number of infant placements appear to remain constant from year to year, the number of applicants continues to grow to the point where there are 175 homes approved for adoption and another 600 on a reserve list. Consequently, based on the success of a project piloted last year on the CBC show "Coffeebreak", which highlighted the need for adoption placements for older and special needs children, adoption homes were found through the public promotion of these children. With a Permanency Planning Social Worker in the Child Welfare Division now working on freeing up permanent wards with a view to adoption, it is anticipated that promotions for adoption homes for these older and special needs children through the media will be an ongoing focus. From time to time, profiles on special needs children are forwarded from the Division to the District and Regional Offices. This promotions program enabled the Department to create greater public awareness of the individual needs of certain children and a greater understanding of the general adoption process.

POST ADOPTION SERVICES

REQUEST FOR SERVICE - April 1, 1986, to March 31, 1987

Sources:		
	Adoptees	- 160
	Birth Parents	- 215
	Adoptive Parents	- 33
	Other	- 50
		458

It should be noted the requests from adoptive parents and other (usually an agency) would most often be on behalf of an adoptee.

The number of requests from birth parents is felt to be higher than the yearly norm with interest stimulated by the release of the White Paper on the Reorganization of Post Adoption Services. Many requests were from birth parents already registered with Post Adoptions.

REGISTRY

Priority has been given this past year to putting some organization into the adoption registry. Since development of the registry has been an evolving process, a more formal approach is planned for future years. For that reason, the numbers are not particularly meaningful in terms of reporting and planning. However, it does give some insight of past numbers of contacts and requests for service. The numbers are as follows:

1.	Adult Adoptees	- 380
2.	Birth Parents	- 239
3.	Adoptive Parents	- 54
4.	Siblings	- 31
5.	Persons relinquished for adoption, but not placed	- 11
		715

1. Adult Adoptees - Registered for varying degrees of service. Also, it is not known how many complete their own searches and could be closed.
2. Birth Parents - The majority of birth parents registered are those who relinquished children since 1983.
3. Adoptive Parents - The majority of adoptive parents are those seeking medical background data.
4. Siblings - This group of persons are those who remained within biological families, but are aware of siblings or half-siblings who were placed for adoption.
5. Persons relinquished for adoption, but not placed - This group of persons are those who were relinquished for adoption, but were never placed, growing up mainly in Foster Home Care.

REORGANIZATION OF POST ADOPTION SERVICES PROGRAM: THE WHITE PAPER

There were approximately 191 responses to the White Paper made up of eleven adoptees, ten biological relatives, 154 adoptive parents, and sixteen interested individuals and organizations. While a significant majority of the responses supported a Combined Active/Passive Search and Intermediary System, it should also be realized that most of this support came from one group; namely, adoptive parents. The vast majority of the other three groups supported a Fully Active Search and Intermediary Procedure.

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PROCEDURE FOR THE COLLECTION OF MEDICAL DATA ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN BEING PLACED FOR ADOPTION

The mandate of this committee is to develop a protocol for the collection and recording of medical data on behalf of children who come into the care of the Director of Child Welfare.

SINGLE PARENTS

Services to single parents are administered under the Children of Unmarried Parents Act, 1972 and related regulations. Such services involved assistance and counselling with the mother in an effort to help her plan for her child and herself.

Included in the services available to single mothers are prenatal and postnatal assistance and guidance relating to pregnancy and birth of the child; i.e., visits to clinics, admission to hospital, accommodations, clothing and planning for the child. Counselling is also provided in assisting the mother to plan for the future and includes employment, accommodations, educational upgrading and maintenance, including maintenance from the father of the child. A continuation of such services is also provided to mothers who experience special problems with which they are unable to cope including the problems and demands of single parenthood.

Services to single fathers involved some counselling and assistance in establishing appropriate maintenance payments through Affiliation Agreements. In the past, single fathers have sometimes been uncooperative in their dealings with the Department of Social Services and occasionally refuse to provide information in such matters as Social Histories. In recent years, a noticeable positive change in their attitudes has been observed and this has been particularly so during the past year. During 1986-87, 164 single fathers received services form the Division of Child Welfare.

TABLE I

CHILDREN IN CARE DURING PAST FIVE YEARS

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Beginning of year	1,169	1,215	1,192	1,008	947
Admitted during year	489	465	662	428	416
Discharged during year	443	488	846	489	470
End of year	1,215	1,192	1,008	947	893

TABLE II

TYPE OF WARDSHIP OF CHILDREN IN CARE DURING THE YEAR

	APRIL 1, 1986	ADMITTED TO CARE	TRANSFERRED IN	DISCHARGED FROM CARE	TRANSFERRED OUT	MARCH 31, 1987
Permanent	287	13	35	31	43	261
Temporary	192	78	72	111	65	166
Non-ward	93	186	3	116	81	85
Pending	29	86	0	35	33	47
Non-ward & Consent	69	40	29	83	6	49
Over 16	277	13	89	94	0	285
TOTAL	947	416	228	470	228	893

TABLE III

REASONS FOR CHILDREN COMING INTO AND LEAVING CARE DURING THE YEAR

Relinquished for Adoption	40	Placed for Adoption	94
Illness, Separation or Neglect of Parents	376	Returned to Parents	267
		Discharged to Relatives	38
		Employment	5
		Transferred	17
		Deceased	3
		Other	46
TOTAL	416	TOTAL	470

TABLE IV

PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE DURING THE YEAR

	APRIL 1, 1986	NEW	TRANS-FERRED IN	CLOSED	TRANS-FERRED OUT	MARCH 31, 1987
Foster Homes	641	225	133	322	137	540
INSTITUTIONS						
Exon House	54	0	0	1	3	50
Mount Cashel	55	10	4	10	2	57
Hospital	3	3	8	4	7	3
Subtotal	112	13	12	15	12	110
Educational Placement	1	0	0	0	0	1
Special Foster Homes	16	16	12	7	3	34
Relatives	46	8	4	13	2	43
Board & Lodging	3	0	19	3	0	19
Group Homes	56	2	7	18	7	40
Section 45 (C.W.A.)	55	48	28	24	29	78
Others	17	104	19	68	44	28
Subtotal	194	178	89	133	85	243
GRAND TOTAL	947	416	234	470	234	893

TABLE V

AGE AND SEX OF CHILDREN IN CARE

	APRIL 1, 1986	MARCH 31, 1987		APRIL 1, 1986	MARCH 31, 1987
AGE			**SEX**		
Under 6 years	186	192	Boys	522	503
6 - 12 years	233	236	Girls	425	390
12 - 16 years	251	180			
Over 16 years	277	285			
TOTALS	947	893		947	893

TABLE VI

DISTRIBUTION OF FOSTER HOMES AND CHILDREN IN REGIONS AND DISTRICTS

	APRIL 1, 1986		HOMES OPENED	HOMES TRANS-FERRED IN	HOMES CLOSED	HOMES TRANS-FERRED OUT	MARCH 31, 1987	
	HOMES	CHILDREN					HOMES	CHILDREN
ST. JOHN'S REGION								
Bell Island	2	6	0	0	0	0	2	6
Ferryland	2	7	1	0	0	0	3	3
Kelligrews	28	35	7	1	8	2	26	31
St. John's	135	335	40	44	49	36	134	313
Subtotal	167	383	48	45	57	38	165	353
EASTERN REGION								
Arnold's Cove	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bay L'Argent	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	2
Bay Roberts	16	28	0	0	3	0	13	32
Bonavista	8	13	1	0	2	0	7	12
Clarenville	23	20	4	0	2	0	25	18
Grand Bank	3	16	0	0	0	1	2	9
Harbour Grace	18	32	0	0	1	0	17	38
Heart's Content	5	16	2	0	0	0	7	19
Marystown	10	15	2	2	5	2	7	8
Placentia	7	20	2	0	1	0	8	18
St. Mary's	13	19	1	0	2	0	12	20
Whitbourne	6	11	3	1	2	0	8	11
Subtotal	111	195	16	3	18	3	109	188

TABLE VI (Cont'd)

	APRIL 1, 1986		HOMES OPENED	HOMES TRANS-FERRED IN	HOMES CLOSED	HOMES TRANS-FERRED OUT	MARCH 31, 1987	
	HOMES	CHILDREN					HOMES	CHILDREN
CENTRAL REGION								
Baie Verte	12	24	2	0	0	0	14	25
Botwood	9	18	5	0	2	0	12	17
Carmanville	1	4	5	0	2	0	4	3
Fogo	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2
Gambo	14	11	1	0	4	1	10	4
Gander	10	13	5	0	6	0	9	8
Glovertown	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	2
Grand Falls	17	20	9	5	12	6	13	20
Harbour Breton	2	26	1	0	2	1	0	4
Lewisporte	17	30	1	1	2	0	17	23
Milltown	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Springdale	19	34	2	0	4	1	16	20
Twillingate	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
Wesleyville	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	109	189	32	6	35	9	103	132
WESTERN REGION								
Bonne Bay	5	1	0	0	0	0	5	0
Burgeo	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	7
Channel	13	19	5	0	3	1	14	24
Corner Brook	32	67	10	0	11	2	29	58
Deer Lake	14	36	0	0	0	0	14	27
Englee	1	8	2	1	2	0	2	7
Flower's Cove	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Piccadilly	26	39	2	0	2	0	26	33

TABLE VI (Cont'd)

	APRIL 1, 1986		HOMES OPENED	HOMES TRANS-FERRED IN	HOMES CLOSED	HOMES TRANS-FERRED OUT	MARCH 31, 1987	
	HOMES	CHILDREN					HOMES	CHILDREN
WESTERN REGION (cont'd)								
Port Saunders	4	3	0	0	0	0	4	3
St. Anthony	4	2	1	0	0	0	5	1
Stephenville	11	14	0	3	0	3	11	20
Stephenville Crossing	7	9	0	0	0	0	7	15
Subtotal	119	206	20	4	18	6	119	196
LABRADOR REGION								
Cartwright	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Davis Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Forteau	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	2
Happy Valley	9	18	1	3	1	4	8	13
Hopedale	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	2
Mary's Harbour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nain	1	8	1	0	0	0	2	4
Sheshatshiu	6	5	6	0	3	1	8	17
Wabush	13	12	3	1	2	1	14	25
Subtotal	31	48	14	5	10	7	33	67
TOTAL	537	1021	130	63	138	63	529	936

TABLE VII

PHYSICALLY AND/OR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN CARE DURING THE YEAR

	APRIL 1, 1986	ADMITTED TO CARE	DISCHARGED FROM CARE	MARCH 31, 1987
No. of Handicapped Children	230	39	8	261
AGE				
Under 6 years	25	6	5	26
6 to 12 years	55	7	2	60
Over 12 years	150	26	1	175
SEX				
Boys	128	31	6	153
Girls	102	8	2	108
PLACEMENTS				
Foster Homes	176	39	4	211
Institutions	54	0	4	50

TABLE VIII - A

NEGLECT

Protection Cases During Past Five Years

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Beginning of Year	783	947	844	856	1031
New, Reopened during year	474	485	498	615	557
Closed during year	310	588	486	440	545
End of Year	947	844	856	1031	1043

TABLE VIII - B

CHILD ABUSE

Child Abuse Cases During Past Two Years

	1985-86	1986-87
Number of Reported Cases		
- Families	160	374
- Children	184	438
Number of Alleged Cases	158	438

TABLE VIII - C

AGE AND SEX OF ABUSED CHILDREN

	0 TO 1 YEAR	1 TO 2 YEARS	3 TO 5 YEARS	6 TO 12 YEARS	OVER 12 YEARS	AT END OF 87 03 31
Boys	5	5	20	77	43	150
Girls	0	4	28	125	131	288
TOTAL	5	9	48	202	174	438

TABLE IX

CHILD ABUSE OFFENDERS - (APRIL 1, 1986, TO MARCH 31, 1987)

A. **THIRD PARTY OFFENDERS**	
- KNOWN THIRD PARTY OFFENDERS (e.g. neighbour, babysitter)	151
- JUVENILE OFFENDERS (No. of children molested by Juveniles)	46
- STEPPARENT/COMMON-LAW PARTNER	36
- UNKNOWN THIRD PARTY	15
TOTAL	248
B. **PARENTS**	127
C. **RELATIVES** (e.g. uncle, grandfather)	63
TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED ABUSED CHILDREN	438

TABLE X

TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE (FROM APRIL 1, 1986, TO MARCH 31, 1987)

Total number of reported abused children	438
- Physical Abuse	77
- Emotional Abuse	6
- Sexual Abuse	316
- Nutritional Abuse	6
- Emotional - Nutritional Abuse	3
- Emotional - Sexual Abuse	3
- Physical - Emotional Abuse	10
- Physical - Sexual Abuse	3
- Physical - Nutritional Abuse	3
- Physical - Emotional - Sexual Abuse	4
- Physical - Emotional - Nutritional Abuse	5
- Other	2
	438

TABLE XI

SOURCES OF REFERRAL
CHILD ABUSE (FOR APRIL 1, 1986, TO MARCH 31, 1987)

POLICE (e.g. R.C.M.P., R.N.C.)	151
SCHOOL (e.g. teacher, students)	90
FAMILY (e.g. mother, victim)	77
FRIENDS/CONCERNED CITIZENS	41
SOCIAL WORKER/DEPARTMENT	23
HOSPITALS	22
MEDICAL DOCTOR	6
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE	6
MENTAL HEALTH SUPERVISOR	5
CLERGY/CHURCH	5
OTHER	12
TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED ABUSED CHILDREN	438

TABLE XII

REGION BREAKDOWN - CHILD ABUSE (APRIL 1, 1986, TO MARCH 31, 1987)

ST. JOHN'S REGION	191	43.60%
EASTERN REGION	51	11.65%
CENTRAL REGION	86	19.60%
WESTERN REGION	59	13.50%
LABRADOR REGION	51	11.65%

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED ABUSED CHILDREN - 438

TABLE XIII

ADOPTION CASES DURING PAST FIVE YEARS

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Applications Received	390	479	427	428	323
Applications Approved	294	341	363	364	279
Applications Rejected or Withdrawn	48	81	33	85	33
Placements Made or Recognized	291	309	279	273	172
Court Orders Made	290	318	266	248	187
Awaiting Court Orders End of year	67	54	82	53	65

TABLE XIV

ADOPTION COUPLES CASELOAD

	CASELOAD ON APRIL 1, 1986	NEW, REOPENED TRANSFERRED IN	CLOSED TRANSFERRED OUT	CASELOAD ON MARCH 31, 1987
STAGE ONE				
Application Placement	693	323	199	817
Recognition of Placement	26	172	101	97
STAGE TWO				
Approved Homes Awaiting Placement	165	73	74	164
STAGE THREE				
Probation Period				
Placements Made (Regular & Nonprovincial)	81	172	136	117
Placements Recognized	10	82	73	19
STAGE FOUR				
Awaiting Court Order	78	204	217	65
TOTAL	1,053	1,026	800	1,279
Children Available for Adoption	54	82	72	64

TABLE XV

AGE OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION DURING THE YEAR

	TOTAL
0 - 12 MONTHS	78
1 - 5 YEARS	36
OVER 5 YEARS	58
TOTAL	172

TABLE XVI

AGES OF CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION ON MARCH 31, 1987

A. CHILDREN AVAILABLE AND SUITABLE FOR ADOPTION

	0-6 MONTHS	6-12 MONTHS	1-5 YEARS	OVER 5 YEARS	TOTAL
BOYS	12	3	9	14	38
GIRLS	9	2	5	10	26
TOTAL	21	5	14	24	64

B. SPECIAL NEEDS AND OLDER CHILDREN

	0-6 MONTHS	6-12 MONTHS	1-5 YEARS	OVER 5 YEARS	TOTAL
BOYS	0	0	8	22	30
GIRLS	0	0	7	11	18
TOTAL	0	0	15	33	48

TABLE XVII

NUMBER OF REGULAR PLACEMENTS MADE OR RECOGNIZED AND COURT ORDERS ON ADOPTION BY REGIONS AND SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS AND REGIONS	PLACEMENT	COURT ORDERS
ST. JOHN'S REGION		
Bell Island	1	2
Ferryland	-	-
Kelligrews	7	9
St. John's	45	57
TOTAL	53	68
EASTERN REGION		
Arnold's Cove	-	-
Bay L'Argent	-	-
Bay Roberts	9	10
Bonavista	-	-
Clarenville	7	7
Grand Bank	1	2
Harbour Grace	4	9
Heart's Content	-	-
Marystown	5	6
Placentia	3	3
St. Mary's	1	1
Whitbourne	-	-
TOTAL	30	38

TABLE XVII (CONT'D)

DISTRICTS AND REGIONS	PLACEMENT	COURT ORDERS
CENTRAL REGION		
Carmanville	4	1
Botwood	4	3
Baie Verte	5	4
Fogo	-	-
Gander	8	8
Glovertown	3	2
Grand Falls	10	9
Gambo	-	2
Lewisporte	-	3
Milltown	-	-
Springdale	4	4
Twillingate	2	2
Wesleyville	1	1
Harbour Breton	1	2
TOTAL	42	41
WESTERN REGION		
Bonne Bay	-	-
Burgeo	-	-
Channel	3	4

TABLE XVII (CONT'D)

DISTRICTS AND REGIONS	PLACEMENT	COURT ORDERS
WESTERN REGION (CONT'D)		
Corner Brook	10	7
Deer Lake	3	2
Englee	1	1
Flower's Cove	-	-
Piccadilly	-	-
Port Saunders	-	-
St. Anthony	4	4
Stephenville	5	3
Stephenville Crossing	4	2
TOTAL	30	23
LABRADOR REGION		
Cartwright	-	-
Davis Inlet	-	-
Forteau	-	-
Happy Valley	8	9
Hopedale	-	-
Mary's Harbour	-	-
Nain	2	-
Sheshatshiu	1	1
Wabush	6	7
TOTAL	17	17

TABLE XVII (CONT'D)

DISTRICTS AND REGIONS	PLACEMENT	COURT ORDERS
Regular	83	76
Defacto	89	111
*Placements outside province	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	172	187

TABLE XVIII

SERVICES TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS

CARE OF MOTHERS	APRIL 1, 1986	ADMITTED	DISCHARGED	MARCH 31, 1987
Boarding Homes	3	33	30	6

CARE OF CHILD	
Adoption	58
Temporary	3
Mothers keeping children or placing with relatives . .	384
Undecided	13
	458

AFFILIATION	
Agreements	119
Orders	45
	164

TABLE XIX

AGE, EDUCATION, AND OCCUPATION OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS

AGE	
Under 18	37
18 - 21	305
22 - 25	87
Over 25	29
	458

EDUCATION	
Under Grade VI	3
Grade VI - VIII	115
Grade IX - XII	295
Over Grade XII	45
	458

NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES	
First	378
Second	60
Third	16
Fourth	2
Over four	2
	458

OCCUPATION	
Student	64
Unemployed	207
Domestic	26
Waitress	15
Cook	3
Homemaker	13
Babysitter	43
Fishplant Worker . . .	21
Factory Worker	8
Salesclerk	5
Cashier	11
Beautician	4
Secretary	3
Office Worker	13
Nurse	2
Nursing Assistant . .	0
Teacher	1
Other	19
	458

TABLE XX

RESIDENCE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS WHO REQUESTED SERVICES DURING THE YEAR BY REGION

ST. JOHN'S REGION	26
EASTERN REGION	133
CENTRAL REGION	134
WESTERN REGION	133
LABRADOR REGION	25
OUT OF PROVINCE	7
	458

YOUTH CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Youth Corrections Program continued to present many challenges, both in terms of the volume and complexity of the tasks which had to be addressed. It became even more apparent this year, that as a result of the new laws governing young offender services, the task of building an effective Youth Corrections Program in this province was an undertaking of major proportions and that this province had a great deal of "catching up" to do just to cope with the current demands on the system. Consequently, the Department's aspirations for the Youth Corrections Program and its continued committment to develop new and more effective services had to be tempered by the need to concentrate upon ensuring that basic services such as custody, community supervision and court services were organized and delivered in an acceptable manner.

Training for departmental and group home staff continued to be a priority during the year. The staff of several group homes, as well as a number of field staff, were given training in Conceptual Level Assessment. The Division sponsored and organized a Suicide Prevention Workshop which was very well attended. This workshop also enabled the Division to have two people who work in the Youth Corrections Program complete their apprenticeships as trainers in suicide prevention techniques. Training in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention for residential care staff continued and policies were issued making this and other training mandatory for residential care staff.

The Division continued to place a high level of priority upon maintaining effective financial management practices in all areas of its operations including headquarters administration, institutions, grants to agencies and the group home program. While much remains to be accomplished in this area, significant progress was evident, as was a heightened awareness of the overall importance of financial accountability.

A great deal of activity occurred during the year with respect to facility planning. The Department's own research and planning, augmented by the findings of the Minister's Report on Secure Custody, led to a decision by government in early 1986 to develop a new system of secure custody facilities for the province. Consequently, government allocated funding in the 1986-87 budget to facilitate the hiring of architectural and engineering consultants to begin the planning of such facilities. Government also approved the formation of a planning committee of officials to work with these consultants and the recruitment of a correctional planning expert to work with this group. The committee commenced its work in the early fall of 1986. Departmental representation on the committee consisted of the Director of Youth Corrections, the Assistant Director of Youth Corrections and the Administrators of the Plesantville Youth Centre and Whitbourne Youth Centre. The committee also included representatives from the Department of Public Works and Services, Education and Justice.

Between September, 1986, and March, 1987, the committee and the consultants engaged in a process of in-depth needs assessment, program planning, examination of alternative solutions, development of conceptual design options and the formulation of comprehensive recommendations to government. As of the end of the fiscal year, the final report of this process was nearing completion and was expected to be ready for presentation to Cabinet by early June. It is hoped that if government approves of the report's findings and recommendations, detailed planning for the new facilities can proceed during 1987-88, with construction to commence in the spring of 1988.

The development of information systems was another area of priority during the year. For several years, beginning even before the proclamation of the Young Offenders Act, the Division has been involved (as have corresponding agencies in other provinces) in assessing the need for information systems to: (a) enable the province to comply with the requirements of the Young Offenders Act with respect to records management; (b) facilitate effective administration of the youth corrections program; (c) provide information to support federal cost-sharing claims, and; (d) provide statistical data to the province and to federal agencies on youth corrections activity. Since 1984, the federal government has had a funding program in place designed to assist jurisdictions in assessing systems requirements and in pursuing the development of such systems. In late 1985, the Department accepted a federal offer to share in the cost of completing the first step in the systems development process; namely, the completion of a Project Valuation Assessment. This document was completed in September, 1986; subsequently, discussions were initiated with the federal government with a view to securing a contract for the completion of the next phases of the process; namely, the System Requirements Definition and System Design Alternatives. These discussions culminated in the submission of a funding proposal to the federal government in February, 1987. This proposal called for a federal contribution of $115,000 toward the continuance of the project. As of March 31, indications were that a positive response would soon be forthcoming from the federal government. If such proves to be the case, the project would commence on June 1.

In February, 1987, Government created a Young Offenders Custody Review Board in accordance with Section 30 of the Young Offenders Act. This board was to assume all of the powers of a Youth Court for purposes of reviewing custodial dispositions in accordance with Sections 28 and 29 of the Young Offenders Act. Mr. T. V. Hickey was appointed as Chairman of the Board, while Mr. Paul Althouse and Sister Marie Ryan were appointed as members. As of March 31, the Board was in the process of becoming operational. it is expected that it will hold its first hearings within the first quarter of the new fiscal year.

The effective delivery of the Youth Corrections Program relies, to a significant extent, upon the maintenance of good working relationships and lines of communication with a number of other government departments and agencies. Most notable of these is the Department of Justice. During 1986-87, as in past years, the Youth Corrections Division worked closely with, and received excellent cooperation from, the Civil Division, Crown Prosecutions Division, Adult Corrections Division, Provincial Courts, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. As well, the Division worked quite closely and effectively with the Department of Health (especially the Mental Health Division), the Department of Education and the Department of Career Development. In the institutional and community residential portions of the Youth Corrections Program, the Division had excellent cooperation from the Department of Public Works and Services and the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation.

The administration of the Youth Corrections Program continued to entail a significant amount of involvement with the federal government, particularly with various branches of the Solicitor General and with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This involvement intensified during the year as officials of the Youth Corrections Division became more involved in various federal-provincial committees and working groups. This involvement is deemed essential in light of the fact that the process of policy development and legislative amendment to the Act is being very actively pursued.

CASELOAD TRENDS

The past year saw a steady increase in the level of activity in most areas of the Youth Corrections Program.

Overall Youth Corrections caseload levels increased quite significantly (by 107 %). While a portion of this numerical increase was due to a change in the case reporting system in July, 1986, this accounted for only 500 of the 1,000 case increase and, at any rate, merely allowed for a more accurate recording of actual activity. It is clear that the overall increase was a reflection of a permanent increase in Youth Corrections activity as a result of the expanded age of jurisdiction (fully 35 % of referrals were over the age of 17) and the stabilization of prosecutorial patterns and sentencing trends.

While the number of girls in the general Newfoundland population slightly outnumbers boys, boys continued to far outnumber girls in terms of young offender activity, as shown by their dominance in: percentage of court referrals (88% vs. 12%), percentage of total caseload (91% vs. 9%), percentage of open custody dispositions (88% vs. 12%), and percentage of secure custody dispositions (94% vs. 6%).

The mean age of youths sent to custody during the year was 16.5 years for boys and 15.4 years for girls. This represented a 1% decrease in the mean age of girls and a 6% increase in the mean age of boys. Since boys comprise some 90% of the custody population and since they are, on average, much older than the girls, this further increase in the mean age is quite significant. In fact, as was predicted in the past, the vast majority of males in custody at this point in time are youth who would have been in the adult system under the old laws.

The number of youth sentenced to secure custody during the year was 162, of which 151 were boys and 11 were girls.

To conclude, significant increases occurred in the scope and size of the young offender caseload during the year as the full effects of the new law and the Uniform Maximum Age were felt. It is predicted that the overall level of activity has now stabilized at this higher level and that future fluctuations will, by comparison, be minor.

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES AND DISPOSITIONAL OPTIONS

The significance and use of Alternative Measures as an integral part of the Youth Corrections service delivery system has taken a landmark development step in the past year. A Federal-Provincial Contribution Agreement for the development of Alternative Measures and Dispositional Options was signed in early 1986; and by August, 1986, the full staff complement of one Provincial Coordinator, five Regional Coordinators, and six secretarial support staff was in place.

While the concept of formal Dispositional Options (e.g. the use of court-ordered dispositions of Community Service, Restitution, etc.) is a relatively new concept introduced by the Young Offenders Act, the Department has always encouraged Alternative Measures programs based upon a community management model which allowed an avoidance of the court process. In the past, the pace of development in the Alternative Measures field has been hampered by a lack of comprehensive policy guidelines, a lack of central management and a lack of effective local coordination. The Alternative Measures component of the present initiative is designed to ensure that while the flexibility to respond to local needs will be protected, all program development will follow the same consistent model; it will also ensure that development will occur at an accelerated pace.

During the past year, three training/planning sessions have been held for the regional coordinators of the project, and a clear plan has been devised for general program development using a community development model. A comprehensive Regional Needs Assessment was conducted by each Regional Coordinator, from which emerged a clear set of short- and medium-range plans for program development for both Alternative Measures and Dispositional Options. This planning process suggested the need for an initial focus upon the coordination and realignment of present programs. Efforts also began in selected communities in each region to recruit, orient and train new community groups for eventual management of Alternative Measures and Dispositional Options programs.

When the recruitment and training process is completed, volunteer community committees will be able to create proposals for Alternative Measures programs which respond appropriately to local needs. These proposals will vest in the committees a great deal of responsibility for control of the program. This model is distinct from - and is felt to be much more effective than - the former custom of approving a "standard" proposal and then requesting community involvement in program operation "after the fact".

Other significant developments with respect to Alternative Measures during the year have included the design of information collection and evaluation strategies and the production of a set of draft standards and guidelines for Alternative Measures programs. Since every program will have necessary input in its developmental stage from the police, Department of Justice, Department of Social Services and the local community, an interagency committee was struck by the Provincial Coordinator to advise on provincial standards. This committee had senior-level representation from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Justice and Department of Social Services. When the draft policies which have been developed are given approval by all these agencies, they will be distributed to interested community groups in each region for the purposes of final review and feedback.

The following is a list of the authorized Alternative Measures programs currently operating within the province, and their approximate caseflow during the year:

St. John's	500	Happy Valley	20
Grand Falls	50	Wabush	40
Stephenville	20	Nain	2

In addition to encouraging the development of programs such as Alternative Measures, which by-pass the formal court process, the Young Offenders Act introduced a number of new types of court-ordered dispositions, which required the provision of additional service to the court by the Department of Social Services. These are commonly referred to as "dispositional options" and include Community Service Orders, Personal Service Orders, and Restitution. These kinds of court dispositions imply a high degree of community involvement and, while the Department is ultimately responsible for providing supervision, administrative and related services with respect to these dispositions, the acceptance of some responsibility by community committees is both possible and desirable. For this reason, the maximization of community management in these dispositions was an objective of the Alternative Measures and Dispositional Options Development Project.

One of the primary goals was to coordinate and facilitate the Department's internal efforts to manage these dispositions. To this end, Regional Coordinators devised local means of coordination and developed organizational aids to facilitate the process. At the provincial level, a policy statement was produced and circulated to assist in recruiting the following two types of community committees which would manage such dispositions: (a) "Advisory Committees", consisting of community agency representatives who would coordinate efforts from an organizational viewpoint, and (b) "Youth Justice Committees", which would be officially designated under Section 69 of the Young Offenders Act and would accept a significant amount of responsibility for both program administration and case processing functions.

The use of dispositional options by the Court, especially the use of Community Service Orders, has increased significantly in the past year. Because of this increase, a data collection system has been devised and put in place.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SERVICES

The Community Corrections Services component of the Youth Corrections Program provides services to the Youth Court of the province as well as delivering the majority of non-residential youth corrections services. Such services would include preparation of court reports, coordinating the completion of other court-ordered reports (i.e. educational, psychiatric, etc.), probation supervision, counselling, case planning and case management. This component of Youth Corrections is very central to the program, given the fact that it deals with approximately 90% of all cases within the program. Because of this, ongoing development of this service area is essential.

In January, 1987, the position of Provincial Coordinator, Community Corrections Services was filled on a permanent basis. This position was intended primarily to be responsible for the coordination of all aspects of probation and related community supervision programs as well as providing advice and policy interpretation on all matters relevant to case management of young offender dispositions to field staff, designing and conducting training for field staff and developing comprehensive written policies.

This position enabled the program to initiate the development of a control system regarding young offender records, case planning and management systems, assessment of court documents and evaluation of the potentials of a number of case classification and management systems. This position is also responsible for out-of-province transfers of young offenders and for the coordination of requests for optional and mandatory reviews of disposition on behalf of youths in both levels of custody.

Among the other major responsibilities of the Provincial Coordinator were the re-evaluation of forms presently being used within the program, as well as the development of new policies and procedures. Further development of policy, increased liaison with field staff, quality control, training and the development of case planning and management systems will continue, in order to enhance the quality of the Community Corrections Services program.

OPEN CUSTODY

During 1986-87, the Division continued to carry out its developmental plan aimed at establishing an integrated system of community-based residential alternatives for young persons sentenced to open custody, in accordance with the principles of the Young Offenders Act and with departmental philosophy and policies.

The service model being developed for each region responds to the requirement to protect society from illegal behaviour by establishing open custody programs with varied levels of security, which hold young persons accountable for their actions. At the same time, these programs are designed to give them opportunities to participate in an individual program plan aimed at fostering the maximum degree of self-development. The components of the overall service model include: (a) initial placement for reception/assessment; (b) individual plan formulation; (c) permanent placement and plan implementation and; (d) follow-up evaluation.

Throughout the open custody system, special emphasis has been placed on developing effective educational programs for young persons and to the establishment of a "continuum" of residential services. In most regions, the planned continuum of service includes one structured assessment/back-up facility, one or more "staff" model group homes (i.e., staff working on shifts), one or more family model group homes (live-in houseparents) and a number of special foster homes with varied capabilities. It is a program expectation that young offenders will be placed in the least restrictive environment which is appropriate to their needs and characteristics, and as close to their home communities as possible, in order that they may maintain ties with family and community. To this end, the progress of each young person is continually monitored with a view to determine whether he or she can be transferred to a less structured and more "normalized" setting. At present, certain limitations within the system, in terms of the numbers and types of placements available, continue to impede the achievement of the program's goals.

As of March 31, 1987, seventy-seven open custody placements were operating in the province. This number included eight assessment beds, forty-four group home beds and twenty-five foster homes. When the developmental stage is complete in mid-1988, it is anticipated that a total of one hundred and seventeen placements will be available province-wide, including thirty assessment, forty-nine group and thirty-four foster home beds. The new programs which are currently in the planning stages, and their target dates for opening are as follows:

1. Salvation Army Youth Residential Centre
   Little Rapids . . . . June, 1987
2. United Church Group Home, Lake Melville
   (assessment component to be added to
   existing group home) . . . . September, 1987
3. Salvation Army Youth Assessment Centre
   St. John's . . . . September, 1987
4. Gander Youth Assessment Centre . . . . January, 1988
5. Open Custody Facility: Marystown . . . . August, 1988

In addition, approximately nine new foster homes are currently undergoing the screening and licencing process.

Efforts to redevelop a number of agencies in terms of their administrative and program functioning were undertaken during the year and will continue into 1987-88. The replacement of existing houses is being planned for Lakeview House in Whitbourne and Innuwass Group Home in Sheshatshit. Extensive renovations were completed during the year on the Lake Melville Group Home in Goose Bay, and discussions to purchase a property for the existing group home at Gambo were initiated. Funding to lease vehicles for six programs was requested.

Training efforts for open custody residential staff and Social Workers focused on Conceptual Level, Assessment Technique, Reality Therapy, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention. Policies with respect to required staff training and reporting requirements with respect to serious incidents were implemented in all group homes. These efforts will continue, as will other related initiatives aimed at establishing consistent and effective standards of programming throughout the system.

PLEASANTVILLE YOUTH CENTRE

The year brought many changes to the Pleasantville Youth Centre, and along with these, the need for continual adaptation and efforts to refine and improve the Centre's programs. Regular programs at the Centre continued throughout the year, while the addition of one teacher permitted the full implementation of a regular education program as well as a physical fitness program at the Remand Centre. Residents in Secure Custody continued education programs in many different areas such as high school credit courses, various levels of BTSD (Basic Training Skills Development), Junior Special Education and Senior Special Education with a Work Experience component. Most work experience was done under the direction of institutional staff; however, three boys were in regular work/job training programs in the community.

The Industrial Arts Program was expanded by volunteer help from one of the teachers on staff. Life Skills and Social Skills training continued and a new Behaviour Treatment Program, based on the principles of Reality Therapy, was introduced. Recreation programs and leisure time activities including craft training continued and were enhanced by volunteer groups from Corpus Christi Council of the Knights of Columbus and from the Salvation Army Training College for Officers.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary have assisted the Centre by providing educational programs on drugs. The Instructional Materials Division of the Department of Education have assisted by taping many hours of educational programs appropriate for youth.

Throughout the year many parents and relatives of residents have participated in the Centre's program. As well, the Temporary Absence Program has met with great success, enabling selected youths to be released to the community for brief periods for the purpose of rehabilitation and reintegration.

A fire which took place on December 30, 1986, caused a temporary disruption in operations. Residents were transferred to Whitbourne Youth Centre for a ten-day period and staff commuted to Whitbourne for work. On January 9, 1987, residents returned and, since that time, the day program has continued at Building 1051 and the night program at the Provincial Youth Hostel, Building 1, Torbay Airport East.

During the year under review, two permanent staff positions were added - one Teacher and one Social Worker. As well, three temporary positions of Juvenile Guidance Officer II and two temporary positions of Utility Worker I were added. Staff training continued as far as was possible, though it was difficult to conduct staff training sessions in a residential facility such as Pleasantville when finances did not permit the scheduling of extra staff on shift to free regular staff from their duties in order to attend sessions. However, by making use of the time when the residents were involved in education day programs with their teachers, the majority of Juvenile Guidance Officers and Youth Detention Workers/Supervisors were able to participate in training sessions for Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.

In addition, all Youth Detention Workers and Supervisors and all Juvenile Guidance Officers III have completed correspondence courses which were the equivalent of forty hours staff training. The Program Supervisor continued training sessions toward certification as a Reality Therapist.

WHITBOURNE YOUTH CENTRE

The year saw continued growth and development in the program of services provided to young offenders at the Whitbourne Youth Centre. There were changes and improvements to the academic, vocational and overall treatment programs. Some of the highlights of activities are mentioned on the following page.

During the 1986 school summer vacation, an Industrial Arts Instructor was retained on staff in order to keep the Woodworking Program operating. This proved very helpful by providing residents with meaningful learning activity during a period when the school program is usually closed down. Several utility sheds, picnic tables, and a number of other smaller items were built by the residents during this time. This period also saw the beginning of more involvement of the Youth Care Workers in activities that were traditionally considered to be the domain of the teachers; and when school reopened in September of 1986, at least one Youth Care Worker was required to be involved in the Industrial Arts Program.

Also, during the summer of 1986, Youth Care workers and residents initiated the construction of a greenhouse and the subsequent planting and cultivation of a variety of plants. This project involved a number of residents, utilized lumber from the logging and sawmill operation and yielded a large quantity of tomatoes and a small amount of corn and cucumbers.

At the beginning of the school year three new teachers were hired, two of whom were additional staff members. The two additional teaching staff brought a wider diversity to the Centre's education program by extending the high school program to Grade XII and by adding a metal working component. Other changes during the year included the introduction of canoe building to the Woodworking Program, the use of a J-5 in the Sawmill and Logging Program, and the use of a computer in the Academic Program.

All program activities were used to help residents learn more effective ways to meet their needs. Although in all cases new skills were learned, primary emphasis was placed on the development of each resident's self-awareness and ability to understand and relate well with others.

The Behaviour Management Program, which consists of daily behaviour evaluations of each resident and a level progression of privileges and responsibility based on those evaluations, continued during last year and was improved with the addition of a new case management component consisting of regular case planning meetings in which Youth Care Workers met, along with the Teachers and the Social Worker, to discuss, develop and assess the progress of each individual case plan. These meetings also provided a forum where Youth Care Workers could plan for the consistent treatment of assigned residents across the four twelve-hour shift rotations.

In the area of staff development, there was participation in Suicide Prevention and First Aid training by a number of program staff from various levels. The Centre's Social Worker and Administrator continued their training in Reality Therapy.

There was a dramatic increase in the number of Young Offenders in residence for each month of 1986-87 when compared with 1985-86. This increase in population for 1985-86 peaked at thirty-one, for 1986-87 it peaked at forty. To conclude, 1986-87 has been an extremely busy and challenging year for the Youth Corrections Division; and this pattern is expected to be repeated next year. Nevertheless, while many serious obstacles were encountered, and much remains to be done, real progress was made in a number of areas.

TABLE I

TOTAL PROVINCIAL CASELOADS FOR YOUTH CORRECTIONS PROGRAM 1986-04-01 - 1987-03-31

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL YOUTHS	ADULTS	TOTAL
April 1, 1986	825	100	925	358	1,283
April 30, 1986	845	113	958	343	1,301
May 31, 1986	880	111	991	347	1,338
June 31, 1986	908	110	1,018	336	1,354
July 31, 1986	888	118	1,006	336	1,342
August 31, 1986	1,375	197	1,572	344	1,916
September 30, 1986	1,390	186	1,576	342	1,918
October 31, 1986	1,501	187	1,688	358	2,046
November 30, 1986	1,578	187	1,765	371	2,136
December 31, 1986	1,647	191	1,838	363	2,201
January 31, 1987	1,698	199	1,897	364	2,261
February 28, 1987	1,733	180	1,913	371	2,284
March 31, 1987	1,737	183	1,920	356	2,276
Percentage Change + 110.5% during year		+83%	+107.5%	-0.56%	+77.4%

TABLE II

PRE-DISPOSITION REPORTS COMPLETED

	1985-86	1986-87	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
Total Reports Completed	568	614	+8.09%

TABLE III

COURT REFERRALS TO YOUTH CORRECTIONS PROGRAM DURING 1986-87

	1985-86	1986-87	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
Number receiving service, April 1	605	779	28.60%
Number referred during year	992	2,147	116.43%
Number discharged during year	818	1,047	27.99%
Number receiving service, March 31	779	1,879	141.20%

TABLE IV

COURT REFERRALS BY AGE, SEX, AND REGION

AGE		SEX	REGION	
12-14	362 (16.9%)	Boys	St. John's	445 (20.7%)
15-16	1,041 (48.5%)	1,890 (88%)	Eastern	311 (14.5%)
17+	744 (34.6%)		Central	443 (20.6%)
	2,147	Girls	Western	653 (30.4%)
		257 (12.5%)	Labrador	295 (13.8%)
		2,147		2,147

TABLE V

NUMBER OF YOUTHS ON PROBATION

	1985-86	1986-87 (BOYS/GIRLS)	TOTAL
Number on Probation as of April 1	440	582 - 64	646
Placed on Probation during year	755	1,109 - 154	1,263
Discharged during year	549	497 - 84	581
Number on Probation as of March 31	646	1,194 - 134	1,328
Percentage Increase during year	46.8%	105.15% - 109.37%	105.57%

Includes 127 boys and 9 girls on unsupervised probation.

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF YOUTHS COMMITTED TO DISPOSTIONS OF OPEN CUSTODY BY AGE, SEX, DISPOSITION LENGTH

			PERCENTAGE INCREASE/DECREASE
Total:	Male & Females:	128	-3.0%
	Males:	112	-5.8%
	Females:	16	+23.0%
Average Ages:	Males:	16.5 years	+5.0%
	Females:	15.4 years	-1.9%
Average Sentence:	Males:	8.1 months	-5.8%
	Females:	5.28 months	-22.67%

TABLE VII

YOUNG PERSONS COMMITTED TO SECURE CUSTODY DURING 1986-87 BY FACILITY, REGION, AGE, SEX, AND AVERAGE SENTENCE LENGTH

REGION*	PLEASANTVILLE YOUTH CENTRE MALE	PLEASANTVILLE YOUTH CENTRE FEMALE	WHITBOURNE YOUTH CENTRE MALE	WHITBOURNE YOUTH CENTRE FEMALE	TOTAL MALE	TOTAL FEMALE
Eastern	22	0	23	0	45	0
Central	14	0	19	0	33	0
St. John's	25	9	32	0	57	9
Western	27	1	23	0	50	1
Labrador	22	1	5	0	27	1
Subtotals	110	11	102	0	212	11
TOTALS	121		102		223	

Average Age Upon Admission: 16.02 years
Average Sentence Length: 153 days (5.1 months)

*The above regional totals include transfers between facilities; 34 from Whitbourne to Pleasantville and 27 from Pleasantville to Whitbourne, for a total of 61 internal transfers. The total for new admissions to the system was 162; 87 for Pleasantville and 75 for Whitbourne.

TABLE VIII

ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE CASES SERVICED DURING 1986-87

	PAROLEES	PROBATIONERS
Number as of April 1, 1986	7	351
Number referred during year	11	329
Number terminated during year	15	327
Number as of March 31, 1987	3	353
Percentage Change	(-57%)	(+0.56%)

Number of Community Assessments Completed - 31 (-8%)
Number of pre-Sentenced Reports Completed - 144 (+32%)

DAY CARE & HOMEMAKER SERVICES

The Day Care and Homemaker Services Division is mandated under the Day Care and Homemaker Services Act, 1975 and the Day Care and Homemaker Services Regulations, 1982 to regulate, inspect and supervise group Day Care Centres and Homemaker Service Agencies in this province. The Division sees its responsibilities as threefold:

1. To safeguard and protect the consumers of these services through the provision of minimum standards with respect to health, safety and programming.
2. To assist with the development of these services through the provision of advisory, consultative and financial resources.
3. To remove financial barriers which may prohibit the utilization of these services by certain income groups through the provision of fee subsidization programs.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Division must rely on the cooperation and assistance of several external groups including the Welfare Institutions Licensing and Inspection Authority, Department of Health (Public Health Inspection) and the Department of Education (Education Consultant - Early Childhood). The licensing function of the Division rests with the Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and chaired by the Director of Day Care and Homemaker Services. The Board meets regularly to consider applications for renewal of licenses, to consider cancellation/suspension of a license to operate and to make decisions regarding certification of persons employed in day care centres and homemaker services who comply with the standards prescribed by the regulations.

During fiscal year 1986-87, the work of the Interdepartmental/Interagency Committees of Family Day Care and Early Childhood Training has continued. Both of these committees were appointed by the Minister of Social Services during fiscal year 1984-85 to undertake a study of two specific areas where service development was lagging.

The Interdepartmental/Interagency Committee on Family Day Care was assigned the task of studying the development of this alternative form of care to group day care centres. In addition, the Committee was to examine the issue of care for children under two years - an age group which is currently prohibited by legislation from utilizing group day care services.

The Interdepartmental/Interagency Committee on Early Childhood Training was appointed to examine the issue of training and qualifications for staff employed in day care services. This committee was mandated to report to the Minister of Social Services with specific recommendations which would specify in regulation a required standard of qualifications for employees in day care centres.

These committees represented a cross section of both government and community representatives, the latter including representation from the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Early Childhood Development Association and the Day Care Advocates Association.

The Family Day Care Committee completed its report/recommendations and have submitted a proposal to the Minister of Social Services for consideration.

The work of the Interdepartmental/Interagency Committee on Early Childhood Training continues. One of the tasks accomplished by this committee was the preparation of guidelines on behalf of the Department of Career Development to be used by training institutions for developing Early Childhood Training Programs.

In March, 1987, a position of Early Childhood Consultant with the Division of Day Care terminated. This resulted from the fact that the work on the Interdepartmental/Interagency Committee of Family Day Care had been completed. In addition, this position had spearheaded the establishment of the province's first workplace Day Care in the new Confederation Building Complex and the resultant formation of a parent-employee cooperative to operate the Centre. This centre is licensed for fifty spaces for children in the two to five year age range on a full- and part-time basis.

This fiscal year also saw the establishment of the Early Childhood Education Program at the Cabot Institute of Applied Arts and Technology, St. John's. The Director of Day Care served on the advisory committee of the Cabot Institute in planning the development and implementation of this program.

In September, 1987, a position of Early Childhood Coordinator with the Division of Day Care was approved. The focus of this role relates directly to monitoring and supervising the Day Care Licensing Program, the preparation of recommendations for the Day Care Licensing Board and the evaluation of standards relating to programming and staffing qualifications. In addition, this position has responsibility for the Day Care Subsidy Program.

This fiscal year also saw the establishment of a Day Care Owners and Operators Association in the province. The Association has a Board of Directors comprised of Day Care Owners/Operators, and membership in the Association is voluntary. Meetings are held on a regular basis focusing on issues of concern/interest to Day Care Owners/Operators.

During this fiscal year, a total of ten new Day Care Centres were licensed by the Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board. This now brings the total number of licensed child care spaces in the province to 1,804, of which 1,253 are full-day spaces.

In addition, a total of 226 recorded inquiries for information relating to the establishment of a day care centre were responded to by the Division of Day Care.

The Department of Social Services continues to make available on an annual basis an equipment and supplies grant to all licensed full day child care services. This grant is linked to the size of a centre and is defined as the number of spaces for which it is licensed and is calculated on the basis of 20 cents per child care space per child care day. The purpose of the grant is to assist these centres to meet licensing standards with respect to the suitability and adequacy of play equipment and materials used to create a stimulating program of activities for children attending these services.

Start-up grants for newly licensed centres in the amount of $1,000 are also made available by the Department and are intended to serve several purposes, but chiefly to help defray the costs incurred in renovations and repairs necessary to meet the standards of the Day Care Act, 1975.

The Day Care Subsidy Program continues to be available to assist single parents and other eligible families for the purpose of assistance with day care fees. During this fiscal year, a total of 1,097 families were assisted through the subsidy program.

As part of its ongoing program of training, the Early Childhood Training Centre, operated under the auspices of the Community Services Council, St. John's, continues to make available part-time evening courses for staff of licensed Day Care Centres in the St. John's and surrounding area. The Department of Social Services provided a grant of $15,000 as a contribution towards the salary costs of the coordinator position for the part-time program.

During this fiscal year, funding was upgraded for the Nain Women's Group, Family Intervention and Day Care Services. The funding arrangement is now similar to that in place for the Daybreak Parent-Child Centre in St. John's, due to the special-needs children/families requiring services.

Following this report are included tables with respect to the growth and development of day care centres, the overall financial expenditures of the program, statistical data relating to the Day Care Subsidy Program which provides assistance with fees to parents qualifying under the income guidelines, as well as statistics relating to the activities of the nutrition consultant position.

The statistical information relating to the subsidization of children enrolled in the Daybreak Parent-Child Centre operating in St. John's is contained in the Annual Report prepared by the Daybreak Parent-Child Centre, 1986-87 and is available upon request. Operating under a non-profit board, this program is entirely funded by the Department of Social Services and is unique in that it provides associated parent programs for the parents of children involved in the Centre. The families involved require a variety of special supports as a consequence of such problems as child and spouse abuse, environmental deprivation, behavioral disorder, developmental delay and/or physical disability.

TABLE I

STATISTICS ON NUMBER OF LICENSED DAY CARE CENTRES

YEAR	NO. OF LICENSED CENTRES	NO. OF LICENSED SPACES FULL TIME	NO. OF LICENSED SPACES PART TIME	TOTAL NO. OF LICENSED SPACES
1975-76	-	-	-	-
1976-77	31	-	-	-
1977-78	30	-	-	710
1978-79	35	-	-	937
1979-80	36	491	325	816
1980-81	31	493	319	812
1981-82	36	533	341	874
1982-83	47	635	325	960
1983-84	48	769	418	1187
1984-85	53	804	549	1353
1985-86	60	922	522	1444
1986-87	72	1253	551	1804

TABLE II*

PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES ON DAY CARE SERVICES IN NEWFOUNDLAND
1976-77 TO 1986-87

YEAR	GRANTS	TRAINING	SUBSIDIES PAID UNDER INCOME TEST	SUBSIDIES PAID UNDER SOCIAL ASSIST.	ADMINISTRATION	TOTAL	% INCREASE	FEDERAL REVENUES (C.A.P.)**	% REVENUE/EXPENDITURE
1976-77	-	-	$135,000	-	$ 4,000	$ 139,000	-	$ 70,000	50%
1977-78	-	-	150,100	-	11,000	161,100	16%	80,000	50%
1978-79	-	-	163,500	-	15,000	178,500	10%	89,500	50%
1979-80	-	-	219,800	-	50,600	270,400	51%	135,000	50%
1980-81	$ 5,000	$10,000	136,300	-	67,000	218,300	(19%)	106,000	49%
1981-82	5,000	10,700	172,600	$152,433	73,000	413,700	89%	206,200	50%
1982-83	7,500	22,714	195,000	200,000	76,700	501,900	21%	269,400	47%
1983-84	7,500	22,100	215,201	250,000	80,500	575,300	15%	291,000	50%
1984-85	23,000	23,700	292,700	276,019	84,600	700,000	22%	327,700	47%
1985-86	44,600	46,000	418,837	494,470	104,400	1,108,300	58%	414,300	37%
1986-87	75,400	38,300	433,300	866,300	116,900	1,530,200	38%	595,150	39%

* If compared to the 1985-1986 Annual Report, it will be noted that expenditures have been adjusted.

**C.A.P. Revenues were over-estimated in the period 80/81 to 84/85. Adjustments are now in process to reduce the revenues.

TABLE III

DAY CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Provincial Statistics*

REASON FOR SUBSIDY		APRIL 1, 1986**	NEW/ REOPENED	CLOSED	MARCH 31, 1987
Employment	1 parent	68	112	66	114
	2 parent	6	6	7	5
Upgrading/Training	1 parent	29	32	22	39
	2 parent	0	1	0	1
University	1 parent	18	24	14	28
	2 parent	0	3	1	2
Disability of Parent	1 parent	3	2	2	3
	2 parent	0	1	0	1
TOTALS		124	181	112	193
Enrichment/Social Assistance	1 parent	85	207	116	176
	2 parent	64	142	92	114
Enrichment/Child Protection	1 parent	50	16	36	30
	2 parent	48	33	43	38
	WARD-DCW	7	13	9	11
Developmental Delay	1 parent	11	10	6	15
	2 parent	27	20	15	32
	WARD-DCW	4	8	2	10
Physical Disability	1 parent	1	2	1	2
	2 parent	5	8	11	2
	WARD-DCW	0	0	0	0
Other	1 parent	5	1	0	6
	2 parent	4	5	4	5
	WARD-DCW	5	11	8	8
TOTALS		316	476	343	449
COMBINED TOTALS (Child Care and Child Development		440	657	455	642

* Statistical information relating to the subsidization of children enrolled in the Daybreak Parent/Child Centre is contained in the Daybreak Parent/Child Centre Annual Report, 1986-87, a copy of which may be obtained from that agency.

** If compared to the 1985-86 Annual Report, it will be noted that, while the combined totals correspond for March 31, 1986, and April 1, 1986, all other statistical information relating to the reason for subsidy has been adjusted.

NUTRITION CONSULTANT

During 1986-87, the activities of the Nutrition Consultant emphasized an increased focus on education and consultation. For example, compared to the 1985-86 fiscal year, presentations increased 60% (from 12 to 20) and consultations increased 55% (from 103 to 188).

Unlike past years, nutrition counselling for special diets is being discontinued and requests for same are being channelled to the appropriate source. A comparison of individual diet counselling over the past years shows how the focus has shifted from this area.

Fiscal Year	Individuals Counselled
1980-81	193
1982-83	47
1985-86	3
1986-87	None

A summary of major activities follows:

Area	Numbers
1. Nutrition Education (Presentations)	
a) Department of Social Services Staff/ training groups	5
b) Day Care Staff/Parents	4
c) Homemakers (private agencies)	10
d) General Public	1
	20
2. Nutrition Consultation	
a) Assessments of Special Diets	102
b) Day Care Centres	
- menu assessments	32
- visits	29
- other	17
c) Group Homes	8
	188
3. Request for Information	
a) Professional	45
b) Public	26
	71

4. Highlights

- The year was interrupted by a month-long labour dispute.
- Was instrumental in the development of the Mother Baby Food Allowance, effective June 1, 1986.
- Co-produced a television show on Preschool Nutrition in conjunction with the Coalition of Health Agencies.
- Developed newsletters for distribution to Day Care Centres and Teaching Homemakers.
- Conducted a survey on behalf of the Day Care Licensing Board to

further examine the question of brown-bag lunches.

- Maintained a close liaison with counterparts in the Department of Health. Reviewed resource material for revision input.
- Attended several professional conferences, workshops, and lectures including a National Conference of Hunger in Toronto.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES PROGRAM

The Division of Day Care and Homemaker Services carries two responsibilities with respect to Homemaker Services. One involves the licensing and supervision of Homemaker Agencies operating independently in the community. The second involves responsibility for the overall management of a Teaching Homemaker Program within the Department of Social Services. This program is a specialized program intending to serve the needs of children and families who come to the attention of the Department of Social Services through the Child Protection Program, Division of Child Welfare Services.

The Department employs twenty Teaching Homemakers whose role it is to work with families in their own homes assisting them with the development of more appropriate parenting skills and also in the development, where necessary, of specific household management skills. The program has been instrumental since its inception in preventing the foster care placement of children and has also meant that children have been able to leave foster care placement and be returned safely to their own home environment.

In carrying out the licensing responsibility of the Division, two new Homemaker Service Agencies were licensed in this fiscal year including services operated by Alexander Bay Community Service Program and the Brookfield Hospital Homemaker Service Home Care Program. This now brings to eight the number of Homemaker Home Support Services Agencies operating in the province and licensed through the Division.

During this fiscal year a joint Ministerial Committee between the Department of Social Services and Health was established. The role of this committee was to recommend legislation and to assess policies and procedures that should be implemented with respect to Homemaker and Home Support Services in this province. The Executive Director of the St. John's Home Care Program was seconded for a nine-month period to work exclusively in this area.

In addition to representatives from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Committee also included representatives from the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland, the Newfoundland and Labrador Homemaker and Homemaker Services Association and a consumer representative.

The Committee is to hold public hearings beginning in late May and early June to solicit public input into the development of regulations. The report of the Joint Ministerial Committee is expected in December, 1987.

With respect to the Teaching Homemaker positions within the Department, there are currently twenty positions and, in the past year, services were provided to a total of 382 families. This number was slightly lower than the previous fiscal year when 422 families were served. This decrease may be attributed to two factors; firstly, the decrease in new referrals as a result of the labor dispute and associated service disruption and, secondly, two Homemaker positions were vacant for a portion of the year.

The following table provides information on the types of cases served by the Teaching Homemaker Program of the Department of Social Services in the fiscal year 1986-87:

TABLE IV

PROVINCIAL CASELOAD REPORT - TEACHING HOMEMAKER PROGRAM*

REASON FOR HOMEMAKER SERVICE	APRIL 1, 1986	NEW AND REOPENED	CLOSED	MARCH 31, 1987
Hospitalization of mother	-	-	-	0
Sickness or convalescense of parent at home	4	1	4	1
Death or desertion or absence of parent(s)	-	-	-	0
Care for disabled, chronically ill or aged person(s)	16	12	20	8
Mismanagement of household and/or finances	64	59	47	76
Inadequate child-care practices	64	54	65	53
Supportive Services	70	38	12	96
Other	-	-	-	0
TOTALS	218	164	148	234

* If compared to the 1985-1986 Annual Report, it will be noted that the reason for Homemaker Service for April 1, 1986, as compared to March 31, 1986, has been adjusted in its entirety.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Social Services delivers rehabilitation services to the mentally and physically disabled throughout the province under legal authority of the Act respecting the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. The purpose of this act is to provide a means whereby all disabled persons are assisted to realize their individual maximum potentials, thus enabling them to acquire as high a level of personal and financial independence as possible.

Services provided under this act are cost shareable with the federal government under the authority of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement (VRDP). This legislation does not require a needs or means test to determine eligibility. Instead, the sole criterion for entry into the program is for the applicant to be a "disabled person". The Provincial Act respecting Rehabilitation defines a disabled person as "a person who, because of physical or mental impairment, is prevented from taking a proper place in the economic and social life of the province".

The types of services provided to disable persons under the Division of Rehabilitation is determined by a process of evaluation and assessment by a Social Worker who ensures that services provided are in line with the requirements and needs of the individual.

MANDATE

The Division of Rehabilitation is responsible for vocational rehabilitation services to both mentally and physically disabled persons. In an endeavour to meet this mandate, the Division provides financial, staff, technical and monitoring support to a number of private agencies to develop, establish and maintain quality prevocational and vocational programs for persons with disabilities. The Division also provides financial support to various organizations for the disabled and other interest groups to enable them to establish support groups, information referral centres and other services.

PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED ADULTS

During the 1986/87 fiscal year, the Division of Rehabilitation oversaw the operation of some fifteen prevocational and vocational programs for developmentally delayed adults. These included the Prevocational Assessment and Training Centre (Topsail Road), the Perlin Prevocational Centre (St. John's), the Developmental Activity Centre (Corner Brook), the Burin-Marystown Training Centre, the Work Oriented Rehabilitation Centres (St. John's, Lewisporte, Corner Brook), the Skill Development Program (Marystown) and the Employment Placement Coordinator positions (Grand Bank, Bay Roberts, Grand Falls, Stephenville, St. Anthony, Port aux Basques, Goose Bay). Funding for one program - the Perlin Training Centre (Gander) - sponsored by the Division of Rehabilitation in the 1985-86 fiscal year was discontinued in the 1986-87 fiscal year when the program was awarded a Federal Government Job Development Grant. As of March 31, 1987, the Developmental Activity Centre (Corner

Brook) closed and will make the transition from a centre-based program to a community-based employment program in the 1987-88 fiscal year.

The Division of Rehabilitation is presently endorsing and encouraging community-based employment training programs for developmentally delayed adults. During the 1986-87 fiscal year, eleven of the fifteen programs in this area operated primarily from a community base and offered employment training with appropriate supports to clients availing of the services.

EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT COORDINATORS AND COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CORPORATIONS

During the fiscal year, a total of eight Employment Placement Coordinators were on stream. This total includes the supervisor of the Burin-Marystown Training Centre whose primary responsibility was to assist clients in the transition from sheltered employment to community-based employment and to arrange all necessary supports in order for clients to maintain employment.

The Employment Placement Coordinators are single-position programs whose mandate is to research the full spectrum of the employment opportunities in the community, assess clients in relation to employment strengths and needs, create appropriate job matches between each client and available employment opportunities and establish individualized on-site support and supervision so as to ensure employment maintenance. On-site support is provided through the hiring of a Job Trainer whose salary is cost sharable under the "Goods and Services" section of the VRDP Agreement.

Four communities (Stephenville, Port aux Basques, Grand Falls and Gander) have now established Community Employment Corporations utilizing both federal and provincial funding. These corporations, through the services of two key staff - the Project Manager and the Employment Placement Coordinator - secure employment for developmentally delayed adults through placement in existing jobs by obtaining and operating existing business enterprises and by developing new business opportunities for both handicapped and nonhandicapped citizens. The Division of Rehabilitation recognized and endorsed the need for this approach for employment opportunities for developmentally delayed adults and continues to be actively involved with both the provincial and local associations for Community Living in the development and promotion of this idea.

ST. JOHN'S WORK ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Previously operated under the auspices of the Employment Opportunities Division, the Division of Rehabilitation assumed responsibility for the St. John's Work Activity Program in April, 1986. This transfer reflected the vocational rehabilitation nature of the program. In June, 1986, the program site moved from Flavin Street to the Avalon Community College - a more appropriate and accessible facility. This program is designed to promote self-esteem, social interaction skills, improvement of self-concept and the acquisition of good work habits using facility based work experience such as carpentry and upholstery. A total of fifty-nine clients (three groups) received services. This number was down from the 1985-86 fiscal year due to both the move from Flavin Street and an additional seven weeks because of a work stoppage due to a strike.

TRANSITION HOUSES

In an endeavour to alleviate some of the problems associated with family violence in this province, the Division of Rehabilitation currently provides funding to four agencies to operate transition homes. These homes are located in St. John's, Corner Brook, Happy Valley and Labrador City. While the facilities themselves offer temporary shelter to mentally and/or physically abused women and their children, other services such as counselling, the operation of a crisis line and assistance in going through the judicial system are also an integral part of each centre's operation.

ORANGE HOME

The Orange Home, a group home for the physically disabled, opened in October, 1986, through a core operating grant provided by the Division of Rehabilitation. This group home is intended to accommodate persons with physical disabilities who require twenty-four-hour-a-day nursing supervision. The group home program stresses counselling services for its residents as well as individual cooperation in the running of the home depending on each person's capabilities in the area of activities of daily living. The program also encourages maximum independence of each resident including vocational and academic upgrading. There are currently three individuals residing in the group home.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Division held a Rehabilitation Workshop for all staff in the Western Region in June, 1986. In February, 1987, Mr. Michael Collins, Education & Training Specialist, University of Vermont, gave presentations on supported employment to members of the St. John's, Eastern and Western Training Selection Committees.

Presentations on the supported employment concept for the vocational rehabilitation of developmentally delayed adults were conducted by the Provincial Coordinator, Vocational Services, for staff of the Clarenville District Office, St. John's Work Activity, three Employment Placement Coordinators and a number of new staff hired by the Division of Mental Retardation Services.

POLICY MANUAL

The Development of the new Divisional Policy Manual was an ongoing process during the year, resulting in completion of the first draft. Additions to the Policy Manual include Supported Employment Services to developmentally delayed adults and the incorporation of guidelines for funding requests pertaining to the hiring of on-site Job Trainers.

ACTIVE CASELOADS

Statistics for the fiscal year indicate a slight decrease in the overall provincial caseload, but a significant increase for all regions, with the exception of Labrador, for training/employment placements. This increase is due to the inclusion in each regional total of individuals categorized as having a disability who were placed in employment through the Community Development Program, but who did not go through the Training Selection Committee process for the purpose of cost-sharing. In these cases, clients did not receive a formalized training program because their particular disabilities did not warrant it.

The following tables show the total provincial caseload and the training/employment placements for the past two fiscal years:

TABLE I

TOTAL PROVINCIAL CASELOAD

	1985-86	1986-87
Physical	416	342
Learning Disability	131	119
Mental Illness	92	98
Developmental Delay	317	325
Addiction	42	34
Psycho Social	60	45
Multiple	117	136
TOTAL	1,175	1,099

TABLE II

TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENTS

YEAR	ST. JOHN'S	EASTERN	CENTRAL	WESTERN	LABRADOR	TOTAL
1985-86	155	53	53	37	23	321
1986-87	226	92	97	87	12	514

CONCLUSION

The past year has been an active one for the Division of Rehabilitation Services especially in terms of endeavours to develop and improve vocational rehabilitation alternatives for persons with disabilities. It is felt the Division is coming closer to its global goal of providing these services through both the most normalized and generic means possible.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

The program mandate of this division is one of a commitment to the development of a responsive community-based delivery system on behalf of individuals having a developmental delay and is premised on the philosophies and principles of normalization and integration. While the service implications of this mandate are many and varied, the major program targets within 1986/87 were:

(a) To attain the closure of Exon House through the coordinated return of individuals to a variety of community residential options.

(b) To firmly entrench within the departmental structure a General Service Plan (G.S.P.) approach to the development and implementation of support services for persons with developmental delays.

(c) To achieve to the greatest degree possible an ability to support all persons with developmental delays, regardless of severity or extent of delay, in their own communities.

The fiscal year 1986-87 witnessed a continued adherence to the closure of Exon House and, while the actual number of persons leaving the facility was less than predicted, this should not belie the enormous amount of energy directed towards the planning and development of needed supports by the district, regional and divisional components of this department. A variety of residential options including group home and foster homes were initiated during 1986-87; and while these did not become fully functional during the current year, most are at developmental stages which will see openings occur during 1987-88.

The major area of expansion during 1986-87 was within the service delivery mechanism to individuals and families. During the year, the General Service Plan (G.S.P.) approach was formally adopted as the preferred method of service planning for families. It was obvious throughout the year that as staff became more familiar with this approach, the quality of supports increased accordingly. Unfortunately, due to differential staffing abilities at the various offices, the G.S.P. was not a tool used by all offices. It is clear from the results within 1986-87 that where social work time was available the G.S.P.'s tended to be very comprehensive and ensured coordinated service development and monitoring on behalf of individual families. The presence and availability of the Regional Social Work Program Coordinators (Mental Retardation) gave much credibility to this approach; and these staff persons were quite helpful in the initial training with regard to the use of G.S.P.

During the 1986-87 fiscal year, there was much interdivisional cooperation between this division and the Divisions of Social Assistance and Rehabilitation. In developing and funding services for adults with developmental delays it was quite often necessary to utilize funding available through the Division of Social Assistance. This was particularly true when providing support services and/or residential options which were not readily available within the established programs of the Division of Mental Retardation. In addition, this division worked very closely with the Division of Rehabilitation to establish functional day care programs for residents of group homes and/or in the establishment of other employment options for persons with developmental delays.

In a real sense, 1986-87 saw a commitment by the Division of Mental Retardation Services to the development of residential options other than group homes as the preferred alternative. The energies directly channelled to the closure of Exon House via the group home program were incorrectly translated into an assumed preference for group homes. The group home program, while it does have much merit, must never be viewed as the preferred or sole residential environment for persons with developmental delays. This is true now and should always remain so, that the majority of persons with developmental delays live with their natural families or with alternate families. It is hoped that during 1987-88 more emphasis can be placed on finding appropriate foster (alternate family) homes as opposed to overutilizing the group home program.

The Division of Mental Retardation Services has within its program scope many support services for persons with developmental delays. These programs include Direct Home Services, Community Behavioral Services, Residential Alternatives, Respite, Financial Supports, Independent Living Services and Exon House. Each of these services has available a detailed annual report for 1986-87 which is available upon request. The following is offered as a brief program description of each with relevant statistical information for the year 1986-87.

DIRECT HOME SERVICES PROGRAM

The Direct Home Services Program provided an in-home based, early intervention parent training program to parents with children having developmental delays. The program, delivered through weekly home visits, provides service to developmentally delayed children from birth to school entry age or until the child has successfully prepared for a more advanced educational program. Any child is eligible for the program when functioning significantly below his age level in any of five developmental areas: cognition, self-help, motor, language, and socialization.

As of April 1, 1986, there were a total of sixteen Child Management Specialists in thirteen offices with five offices vacant. There was an approximate caseload of 185 families.

As of March 31, 1987, there were nineteen Child Management Specialists in fifteen offices with two offices vacant. The provincial caseload at that time was 189 families. The vacant positions are expected to be filled early in the 1987-88 fiscal year.

During the fiscal year, the Direct Home Services Program continued to provide service via part-time Child Management Specialists. In the St. John's region a total of five part-time Child Management Specialists worked with families eligible for this service. At the close of the year, March 31, 1987, there were three part-time Child Management Specialists working with eleven families.

During the fiscal year, one Child Management Specialist began a special project to survey the Labrador coastal area to determine the exact potential caseload and a means of service delivery. This project will continue into the next fiscal year; preliminary results should be available in the summer of 1987.

In addition, during this year four Early Intervention Workers were utilized to provide support in three communities within the province. At the close of this fiscal year there were three such workers providing support to children with developmental delays in two districts. These Early Intervention Workers function under the close supervision of a full-time Child Management Specialist.

In addition to the above service delivery modes, there were two summer students employed in the St. John's region during the period May to September to fill in for Child Management Specialists on annual leave and to provide support to families who were not on active caseload.

COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL SERVICES PROGRAM

The primary mandate of this program is to deliver behaviour management services to developmentally delayed individuals and their families. Individually tailored programs are designed so as to train the person, and significant others in the person's life, to gain functional control over maladaptive behaviour which may be threatening the continuance of a day program or residential option.

During 1986-87, the Community Behavioural Services Program continued to be actively involved with the residential alternatives program. It is acknowledged that Behavioural Management Specialists provide critical support to group homes and other residential facilities. During the past year, Community Behavioural Services Program personnel contributed significantly to training of group home staff and development of individual program plans for residents. This program is comprised of a Coordinator and fourteen Behaviour Management Specialists.

As of March 31, 1986, a total of 117 individuals and families received program support from Community Behavioral Services. There were eleven staff positions filled with three vacancies. During the year 1986-87, a total of 219 individuals received service from the Community Behavioral Services Program.

A major area of concern to this program is the significant number of individuals waiting for service. The current waiting list is comprised of ninty-two individuals, but the actual number may be higher and thus service needs even greater. In many instances referral agents are reluctant to refer when there are significant waiting lists. Two additional factors need to be considered in interpreting the waiting list numbers: (1) In offices where the Behaviour Management Specialist's position is vacant for any time referrals tend to drop off. (2) There have been no efforts made to actively solicit referrals or promote service.

It is felt that the waiting lists would be significantly decreased if General Service Planning and case management was more an established component in the service delivery system. Behavioral crises are more quickly resolved when all needed additional supports are quickly and efficiently implemented and monitored. In many instances, Behaviour Management Specialists are required to be involved for longer periods than necessary because program supports are frequently not coordinated. With the implementation of full support and case coordination, Behaviour Management Specialists could limit their involvement in keeping with their specialized function along with appropriate follow-up and termination. It is anticipated that, with an improved General Service Planning ability, waiting time for the Community Behaviour Service Program's involvement would be less.

A second component of this program is the Developmental Group Home which provides twenty-four hour per day behavioral programming and skill teaching to individuals whose present behavioural problems preclude placement in a regular group home or foster home and those individuals whose behavioural problems are such that continued living at home is in jeopardy. Individuals remain in the Developmental Group Home for a period of eight to twelve months in preparation for a move to a less restrictive living option or return to their own home.

The home currently accommodates four individuals and has a staff comprised of a Coordinator, one Lead Counsellor and sever full-time Counsellors supplemented by part-time staff.

During 1986-87, this group home relocated to its present location on LeMarchant Road. This move enabled the program to be divided so that one individual is now able to live in an apartment attached to the group home with the other three residents living in the main body of the house. During 1986-87, there was one discharge with one readmission occurring. Plans are now underway for two of the residents to move to less restrictive living environments.

RESPITE CARE

The Respite Care Program provides both short- and long-term relief to families who have developmentally delayed sons or daughters living at home.

Short-term respite (usually an afternoon or evening per week) is delivered by full-time and/or part-time workers. The staff provide assistance to family members in their own homes or help them participate in community activities.

Long-term residential respite is available on a limited basis in various residential respite homes throughout the province. These homes are licensed to accommodate up to two individuals to a maximum of four weeks. During 1986-87, a total of eighty-six families received long-term respite, some of which was provided to other residential options such as group homes and/or Developmental Maximization Units.

As of April 1, 1986, there were twenty-three salaried units approved for the respite program. During 1986-87, a total of 280 families received short-term respite. The twenty-three positions within the Respite Care Program are all filled on a temporary basis. Sixteen of these positions are filled on a full-time basis with seven part-time respite workers also on staff. At present, there is one full-time and one part-time position vacant.

During 1986-87, the fee-for-service component of respite care continued to be used as a service delivery model. The Humber Valley Association for the Mentally Retarded (Corner Brook) was provided with a grant equivalent to one salary unit. This association then contracts out respite services for individual families and invoices the Department for reimbursement. The Division of Mental Retardation Services is very hopeful of expanding this service delivery system; a comprehensive review has been completed and the merits of this service design are quite obvious. It is hoped that during the fiscal year 1987-88 this model can be extended such that other areas of the province receive respite in the same fashion.

In addition, it should be noted that respite is provided through means other than the salaried workers. In many instances, families received financial support to purchase respite on an individual basis. Such funds were provided to these families utilizing Special Child Welfare Allowances and the Social Assistance Program. In these cases, although respite is arranged by the individual families, the service is monitored and supported by district staff within the Department of Social Services.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE

This program is a centre-based service which emphasizes basic self-help and functional living skills development. It was designed specifically for those individuals residing in the community and whose present skills level is such that they would not be readily accepted into an already existing day program. The basic mandate of this service is to provide very intensive one-to-one programming (particularly in the area of gross and fine motor development) so that all individuals develop the skills necessary to enter less restrictive pre-vocational/employment settings.

This program is comprised of a Coordinator and six staff with six to seven adults enrolled in the program. During 1986-87, there was one graduate with one new student being admitted.

While this program is centre-based, much emphasis is placed on a close coordination between the Centre and the home environment. Regular home visits are made and much effort is put into ensuring that the parent/foster parent is aware of the activities which are carried out within the Centre and that these activities are coordinated within the home environment as well.

EXON HOUSE

Exon House is a residential facility which provides care and accommodation to young adults with identifiable developmental delays. It is predicted that this facility, as part of the Department's deinstitutionalization program, will be closed within the next eighteen months. At present there are two units within the facility; as alternate residential placements become available in the community through the development of group homes and foster home placements, these units will be closed. While no units were closed during 1986-87, much emphasis was placed upon the development of individual portfolios and personal support packages which enable individuals currently living within Exon House to move into less restrictive community placements.

As of April 1, 1986, there were a total of fifty-four residents in permanent care with two persons in temporary care. A total of six discharges occurred during the fiscal year 1986-87. They are as follows:

four individuals to group home care, one individual to foster care, and one individual to natural family. As of March 31, 1987, there were a total of forty-eight residents in permanent care with two individuals in temporary care.

It had been originally planned that one unit would close during 1986-87; but due to the nondevelopment of group homes and nonsecurement of adequate foster placements, this was not possible. It is now anticipated that a unit will close during 1987-88 with the final closure of Exon House to occur sometime within the 1988-89 fiscal year.

RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

This program area provides various types of living options to many persons living with a developmental delay and who need to be supported in their daily living. It is broken down into a number of sub-areas as follows: Developmental Maximization Units, Co-ops, Foster Placements, Group Homes, etc.

DEVELOPMENTAL MAXIMIZATION UNITS

The Developmental Maximization Units provide accommodations to medically involved individuals. Due to the stimulating environment, reduced resident numbers, and trained staff, these units are better able to afford each resident a developmental program based on his or her specific developmental needs.

As of April 1, 1986, there were two units in operation at Springdale and Old Perlican providing accommodations to six and eight individuals respectively. During 1986-87, there were a total of six discharges from these units with three admissions. As of March 31, 1987, there were six individuals residing in Old Perlican and five individuals residing at Springdale.

COOPERATIVE APARTMENTS

As of April 1, 1986, there were six cooperative apartments in operation. Each apartment serves as a home for two to three developmentally delayed adults and is staffed by one Supervisor/Counsellor and relief staff.

The individuals in these apartments require a much less restrictive living option than that provided by a group home but still need daily supervision and instruction in more advanced daily living skills. All individuals who reside in these apartments attend a full-day program five days a week (either vocational or employment). As of March 31, 1987, there were twelve young adults living in cooperative apartments, and during the fiscal year there were two admissions.

FOSTER PLACEMENTS

As of March 31, 1987, there were a total of sixteen children in care in eleven special foster homes. In addition to these sixteen children in special foster care, there were approximately fifty children with identifiable developmental delays living with families within the regular foster home program administered through the Division of Child Welfare. In conjunction with the Division of Child Welfare, a review is currently being undertaken which will see the identification of all those children with developmental delays now living in foster homes. It is the intent of this review to identify those homes which provide care solely to individuals with developmental delay so that these homes may then be administered through the Division of Mental Retardation Services. It is anticipated that such a move will ease administration and ensure the close coordination and delivery of related support services.

At present, the maximum special foster rate is $896 per month, and a total of $332,000 was spent in this program area during the 1986-87 fiscal year.

It is hoped that during the coming fiscal year much more emphasis will be placed on the development of foster care as a functional alternative to institutional placement and an alternative to the use of group homes as the primary vehicle to depopulate Exon House.

It should be noted that, within some of the above noted Special Foster Homes, there are persons who are older than twenty-one years of age and thus would not be reflected in the quoted statistics.

GROUP HOMES

As of March 31, 1987, there were a total of sixteen group homes in operation (three adult and thirteen child) with a total population of sixty-five residents. During the fiscal year 1986-87, there were a total of seven admissions to the group home program with six discharges occurring. Late in 1986-87, a group home in Goose Bay was started and it is expected that individuals will be placed in this home early in the 1987-88 fiscal year.

While approval was obtained for the establishment of ten additional homes in 1986-87, only Goose Bay became operational within the year. The other homes have been designated for development in various communities within the province, and all are at developmental stages which will see them become operational during 1987-88. The communities identified for group home development were selected based on the home communities of the persons still residing at Exon House. As the homes become operational, Exon House will be closed.

There were many service developments within the group home program during 1986-87; the major changes being the reclassification of the Coordinator and Counsellor positions, setting of new requirements for these positions, the negotiation of various union contracts, the provision of funds for administrative and service management and the adoption of a new budgetary monitoring mechanism. In addition, the first Group Home Conference was held and it is hoped this will become an annual event.

SPECIAL CHILD WELFARE ALLOWANCE

During 1986-87, the assessment of eligibility for Special Child Welfare Allowances became subject to the enriched needs test as opposed to the previously used income test. Also during this year the approval level was delegated to the district office with additional approval authority at the regional level. Using the enriched needs test, the district office now has the authority to approve an amount up to $340 per month with the regional office having the authority to approve an additional $1,000 per month if the situation warrants.

During the fiscal year 1986-87, a total expenditure of $562,000 occurred in this program area with approximately 200 families receiving assistance throughout the year. A total of $87,000 was issued directly from headquarters to cover such items as special diets, nursery school fees, etc. In addition, $475,000 was expended from the local district offices to cover irregular costs such as medical transportation, in-home supports, special equipment, etc.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE (SPECIAL NEEDS)

This funding source has been used in instances where a family is in receipt of social assistance, or a developmentally delayed adult is entitled to such assistance in his own right. This program area has been used to purchase various forms of support such as respite, teacher/companions, special apparatus, etc. It has also been used to continue to pay special foster home rates on behalf of individuals who are older than twenty-one years of age. In addition, special needs social assistance has been used to purchase co-op type living arrangements on behalf of young adults. It is expected that during the fiscal year 1987-88, funds currently being expended through the Social Assistance Program to purchase such residential options as the co-ops will be transferred to the Division of Mental Retardation Services.

REGIONAL SERVICES

The Division of Regional Services has responsibility for the implementation of all the Department's programs and the delivery of services at the field level. This responsibility includes the supervision and coordination of the Social Assistance, Child Welfare, Youth Corrections, Employment Opportunities, Day Care and Homemaker, Mental Retardation and the Rehabilitation programs of the Department. In addition, the filling of vacancies, promotions and other personnel matters are also included in the responsibilities of the Division.

Incorporated into the Division of Regional Services is responsibility for:

A. Ensuring that services are provided throughout the province in a manner consistent with the intent of policy and legislation;

B. Evaluating the effectiveness of services provided and assessing the need for additional services;

C. Ensuring that services are provided in a manner consistent with the dignity and worth of the individual and with full regard for his rights and needs as a citizen;

D. Directing field management personnel in terms of ways and means of facilitating service delivery;

E. Establishing priorities, when necessary, for field offices in attending to program matters; and

F. Accountability for results.

The Division of Regional Services is responsible for providing the services of the Department to people in their own communities. The Department of Social Services has divided the province, for administrative purposes, into five geographical regions. These five regions are further subdivided into fifty-three districts. In addition to the services provided at these offices, Social Workers also visit the homes of people requiring financial and nonfinancial services.

A Regional Director has administrative responsibility for the provision of all the services of the Department in each of the five regions referred to above. He is directly responsible to the Director of Regional Services for all aspects of program implementation and for his own performance and the performance of his staff. The principle functions of the position of Regional Director are:

A. Overseeing program implementation within the region;

B. Planning and evaluation;

C. Supervision; and

D. Public relations, which encompasses the interpretation of departmental programs, liaison with other agencies, and representing the Department in the community.

The Assistant Regional Directors have line authority over District Managers, and they advise the Regional Director on the effectiveness of policy and procedures. This organizational structure gives considerable autonomy to District Managers, yet provides them with adequate consultation and supervision in matters of program development and service delivery.

Each of the fifty-three district offices throughout the province are under the direction of a District Manager who is responsible for the management of the district office and the supervision of the staff, including performance evaluation.

In several large multi-worker offices, Social Worker Supervisors have been appointed to assist the District Manager in the operation of the office and in the supervision and evaluation of staff. In these large offices, the position of Social Worker Supervisor is the first level of management control over the provision of services to people in their own communities.

The fifty-three district offices throughout the province are staffed by 440 permanent personnel, including professional front line staff, management and stenographical and clerical support. These staff are responsible for providing the services of the Department to people at the community level in a manner consistent with the intent of policy and legislation.

STAFF

The total staff complement of the Division of Regional Services on 1987 03 31 was 443, including headquarters staff of the Director, an Administrative Assistant and a Clerk Stenographer III.

STAFF - MARCH 31, 1987

Director	1
Regional Director	5
Assistant Regional Director	9
District Manager	53
Social Worker Supervisor	11
Social Work Program Coordinator	17
Regional Psychologist	2
Social Worker	177
Child Management Specialist	22
Behaviour Management Specialist	15
Social Assistance Worker	47
Clerk IV	5
Clerk III	2
Clerk II	3
Clerk I	2
Clerk Stenographer III	2
Clerk Stenographer II	46
Clerk Stenographer I	3
Clerk Typist III	1
Clerk Typist II	15
Clerk Typist I	4
Switchboard Operator	1
	443

During the year under review, there were eleven appointments to the field staff and ten resignations. In addition, nine members of the field staff received transfers to other district offices or to other departments.

Six field staff members were on Educational Leave during the year to complete the requirements for degrees or to obtain additional university credits.

VISITS TO FIELD OFFICES

All of the Department's regional and district offices were visited during the year by the various Program Directors, the Assistant Deputy Ministers and the Deputy Minister. The visits to field offices have a twofold purpose of improving communications and monitoring the effectiveness of services provided.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS, IMPROVED OFFICE FACILITIES AND STAFF HOUSING

Office accommodations are provided for the fifty-three district offices and five regional offices by the Department of Public Works and Services and are located at fifty-eight locations throughout the province. Each year, continued efforts are made to improve the comfort, convenience and confidentiality in the offices throughout the province.

During the past fiscal year, accommodation improvements were made to several offices, both regional and district, through relocation or by renovations and expansion to existing facilities.

The provincial government provided residences on a rental basis to Department staff through the Department of Public Works and Services, the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and, in Labrador, through properties leased by the federal government. At 1987 03 31, the number of residences and apartments owned by these sources at various communities throughout the province totalled fifteen.

A description of the activities of the five regions follows this report.

ST. JOHN'S REGION

The St. John's Region is responsible for the delivery of services to the general public in eight program areas. These services are delivered from district offices in St. John's East, West and Centre, Bell Island, Kelligrews and Ferryland. The total population served is approximately 170,000 out of which approximately 12,000 clients receive monthly services. The total staff complement of 152 is allocated to the six district offices and the regional office.

The following report will describe the major activities in the eight program areas in the region.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The total Social Assistance caseload in the region increased by 750 cases over last year. A specific cause for this increase has not been identified, although the increase has been confined to the urban section of the region. Poor economic conditions generally contribute to the rise in the number of Social Assistance cases.

One significant development during the past year has been the opening of the Wiseman Centre, a hostel operated by the Salvation Army for homeless males. This hostel has space for forty men and has helped tremendously in alleviating the problem of obtaining housing for transient and other homeless individuals.

In this program, increased emphasis is placed on the use of the Enriched Needs provisions of the Social Assistance regulations which permit workers to consider additional costs incurred by disabled persons who require supportive services to maintain independent living. While the costs in this particular area have risen, the number who are able to remain living in the community, as opposed to requiring institutional care, result in not only cost-effectiveness, but better quality of life.

During the past year two persons were convicted in court for obtaining Social Assistance under false pretenses. No jail sentences were imposed. Restitution was ordered in the amount of $1,739 as a result of civil action. Three private agreements were entered into to repay money totalling $19,815.95 received for which there was no entitlement. In addition, seven overpayments were set up to be recovered from Social Assistance - a total of $11,572.83. Also, eleven clients were suspended from Social Assistance as a result of investigations. The year's activities in this area are shown statistically as sixty-six cases carried over from last year, forty-two cases were new and reopened, fifty-three closed and fifty-five carried over into the new fiscal year.

Another major activity in the Social Assistance Program has been the referral of clients consistent to the Employment Opportunities Program, without which the increase in the Social Assistance caseload would have been much higher.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Within the past year, the Employment Opportunities Program has further expanded, not only in terms of the numbers of Social Assistance recipients placed in employment and in the amount of money allocated, but also in the categories of Social Assistance recipients who can now be eligible for hiring and in the types of services which are now provided by these projects.

With the Employment Enhancement Program, a federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement to enhance the employability of Social Assistance recipients, clients such as single persons, childless couples, and those receiving a Social Assistance supplement became employed to a greater extent than before on Employment Opportunities projects. Another feature of the Employment Enhancement Program is the fact that a training component had to become an integral part of the project proposal so that the client's future employment capability might be enhanced.

In addition to the more standard type of project such as land clearing, housing repairs and preparation of recreational areas, many projects supplement services to people, such as teacher's aides for handicapped children in the school system, housekeepers and handyman helpers for senior citizens, respite workers for families with developmentally delayed members, support workers for children with special needs in Day Care Centres, support workers for visually impaired children during their summer holidays, and assistants to work with mentally handicapped adults at the Prevocational Centre. The extent to which these types of worthwhile service projects are made available will depend upon the balance that can be found between the agencies' expectations for services and this department's ability to respond with suitable project employees.

In the past fiscal year, 2,676 persons have been hired for a total expenditure of $8,282,752. This can be further subdivided into two areas: (1) Regular Community Development Program, and (2) Employment Enhancement Program with an analysis by district office:

TABLE I

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

OFFICE	FUNDS SPENT	NUMBER HIRED
St. John's Centre	$1,480,728	500
St. John's West	1,783,044	586
St. John's East	1,404,536	452
Kelligrews	891,124	296
Bell Island	1,270,251	383
Ferryland	182,670	55
	$7,012,353	2,272

TABLE II

EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

OFFICE	# PROJECTS	FUNDS SPENT	NUMBER HIRED
St. John's Centre	28	$ 466,727	136
St. John's West	15	281,328	92
St. John's East	6	197,938	62
Kelligrews	7	135,874	43
Bell Island	9	171,892	65
Ferryland	2	16,640	6
	67	$1,270,399	404

CHILD WELFARE

In the Child Welfare Program, an increase of fifty cases in the region over the same period last year has been noted. This is not a significant number although, in the area of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, the number of referrals has risen. The increased numbers in this area, as well as the increased awareness of this problem by professionals within this department and the raised expectations of the community, have created the impetus that led to the creation of a specialized Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention Unit at Waterford Bridge Road in St. John's. This unit is staffed by professionals including a Social Worker Supervisor, four Social Workers and a Clerk-Stenographer. This unit responds to all new cases of child abuse and to cases that have been inactive for three months. The Unit does the initial investigation in cooperation with the police, a thorough assessment of the case, arranges for appropriate placement of the child if necessary, arranges court action and develops a treatment plan before the case is transferred back to the appropriate district office for monitoring.

A two-week training program was developed for the Unit which included input from experts on similar abuse units in other provinces. A back-up group of four Social Workers were also trained so that a worker is available to fill in when a unit worker is absent from work.

Another significant development in the region over the past year has been the creation of a highly structured Child Welfare Group Home, the development of which is still not complete. However, a property has been acquired and a house director hired. The function of this home will be to admit, assess and provide a short-term treatment program for difficult child welfare cases that cannot be accommodated at home, in foster homes or in other group homes. Children with serious behaviour problems, children classed as "runners" who could have been accommodated in the Youth Corrections facilities previous to the advent of the Young Offenders Act will be accommodated in this group home. This home will address a serious need which has previously been unmet.

Development has been completed on a special foster home for adolescent girls. This facility, which is operated by the Sisters of Mercy Generalate, can accommodate six girls who need a more structured environment than a regular foster home. This home is operating similar to a group home and provides a much needed service to children in this region.

During the past year, a week in November was set aside in honour of foster parents. Banquets were held and special presentations were made to honour foster parents who had provided considerable years of service to this department. Training workshops were also held for foster parents and Child Welfare Workers.

YOUTH CORRECTIONS

The caseload in this program increased by 242 cases over the same period last year, a very significant increase of 87%. This increase is largely a result of the higher age limit to age eighteen which now applies to Young Offenders under the Young Offenders Act. The Social Workers' efforts are directed largely at responding to the requirements of the court in completing predisposition reports and finding open custody placements.

In the Youth Corrections Program for this region a major activity has been the development of open custody facilities to accommodate youth sentenced to open custody by the court. In support of this, the Salvation Army has agreed to become the sponsoring body for a six-bed (plus one emergency bed) Open Custody Group Home which will take any referrals that are presented by the court. This home will have the capability to do comprehensive assessments on each case, to provide services until the individual's functioning is stabilized and then referred on to a less restrictive setting such as a regular open custody group home or an open custody foster home. A building for this residence has been located and is being considered as a suitable site.

During the past year, a social worker was hired to develop open custody foster homes, and was successful in acquiring six new homes. That brings the region's open custody resources to one group home and eight foster homes which are capable of meeting existing placement needs, although the developing group home referred to above is needed to provide an assessment capability which does not now exist.

The Youth Diversion Program was extremely active again this past year. This community-based program operates with the understanding that first-time young offenders who are diverted from the court system to provide community work of various kinds or to attend educational sessions related to the area in which the offence occurred, are less likely to recidivate and are more likely to assume responsibility for their actions. As of April 1, 1986, a total of 136 active cases were recorded; during the year 450 new referrals were received, 370 cases successfully completed the program, ninety-three cases were returned for prosecution and 123 cases were still active as of March 31, 1987.

During the past year, a coordinator was hired for the development of Alternative Measures and Dispositional Options in the region. Alternative Measures are similar to the Youth Diversion Program; that is, alternatives to court action. Dispositional Options are court dispositions other than traditional sentences to custody or probation and include Community Service Orders. After having completed a needs assessment and after having contacted a number of community agencies, the coordinator was successful in setting up a number of placements where young offenders may work their Community Service Orders which the courts impose.

REHABILITATION

The caseload in this program in the region increased by 100 cases over the same period last year - a significant increase since it represents a percentage increase of about 20% of last year's caseload. As well as dealing with clients who require vocational rehabilitation services in the St. John's region, Social Workers here receive referrals from outside the region in the form of trainees for Memorial University, the Cabot Institute and private colleges.

Rehabilitation clients continue to avail of training seats in vocational and technical colleges and universities both within and outside the province. Physically disabled persons benefit mainly from these training institutions while the mentally handicapped receive training at three centres in St. John's; namely, the Prevocational Centre on Topsail Road, the Perlin Prevocational Training Centre and the Work Oriented Rehabilitation Centre. In addition to placement in these training programs, mentally handicapped adults receive on-the-job training at various businesses throughout the city. With the concept of supportive employment for disabled persons and the new provision in the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement for supporting a disabled person on the job, more and more of the disabled population are being placed in on-the-job training situations. This is a new area for involvement for rehabilitation personnel and this support service is being used more and more in the region.

Training Centres, such as Perlin Prevocational, continue to have long waiting lists of persons approved for training. The demand for service is exceeding the ability of the Centre to accommodate developmentally delayed individuals.

Over the past year, the Training Selection Committee processed over 250 applications for training and assessments. The total number of clients who completed training during the year was thirty-five and the total number placed in employment was 144.

One of the gaps in service in the area of Rehabilitation is a lack of educational or vocational programs to address the needs of persons with learning disabilities and persons with psychiatric illness.

The Prevocational Assessment and Training Centre on Topsail Road is a regional operation under the Rehabilitation Division which provides prevocational and life skills training for mentally handicapped adults. These adults reside at Exon House, group homes, and their own homes. This day program helps these young adults to decrease inappropriate behaviours and to better prepare themselves for work-study sessions and job training placements. During the past year, fifty-nine clients received services from the Centre, and seventeen received on-the-job training.

The St. John's Work Activity Program, a work experience and life skills project for socially disadvantaged recipients of Social Assistance, showed a 66% completion rate for its fifty-nine participants. Out of the group who completed the project, 86% of the males and 70% of the females were successful in obtaining training or employment placement.

Since this project became the responsibility of the Rehabilitation

Program, gradual integration of rehabilitation and mentally handicapped clients took place.

SERVICES TO SENIORS

The caseload in this program increased by 214 cases in the past year - a 39% increase. Services to the approximately 560 residents of twenty-eight licensed boarding homes remained at much the same level as last year. The increase can be accounted for by the larger number of requests for home support services for senior citizens which can be responded to effectively by the Enriched Needs provisions of the Social Assistance Regulations and by the Employment Opportunities Program. Under the Social Assistance Program, the cost of homemaker services and/or attendant care can be considered as a legitimate need when assessing a senior citizen's request for home supports. Under the Employment Opportunities Program, housekeepers and home-support workers can be hired to help maintain seniors at home. Also, through the Employment Opportunities Program in the Kelligrews district, workers were hired to provide a recreational day program for seniors who would leave their boarding homes for specified periods of time and come together to participate in organized leisure time activities.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

This program continues to expand with the gradual phase-out of Exon House and with no new residents being admitted. The Mental Retardation Services caseload increased by 150 cases over the past year, a percentage increase of 75%, which places heavy demands on district office staff to serve the increasing numbers.

The Department's policy of deinstitutionalization and noninstitutionalization of developmentally delayed persons requires a commitment to community-based services, and this is where a sizable part of the Department's resources are concentrated. The resources provided mainly are group homes, cooperative living apartments, independent living arrangements, special foster homes, respite care, special child welfare allowances, social assistance special needs, as well as the professional services of social workers, child management specialists, and behaviour management specialists. The effective utilization of these resources results in the least restrictive living arrangements for this client group.

This region operates four group homes, five cooperative living apartments and three independent living arrangements which support a total of twenty-nine individuals. There are ten special foster homes in which there were four admissions and two discharges during the past year. These special foster homes accommodate a total of twenty-two residents. Residential respite care was provided to thirty-five families during the past year. All requests for respite care for developmentally delayed family members while the families were on vacation were accommodated within the Community Residential Alternatives Program so that no person required institutional placement for respite. The respite care workers in the district offices provided services to fifty-five families. Other services, such as purchases of special equipment or special individual programs, were arranged through the Special Child Welfare Allowance or the Social Assistance Program to support individuals to live in their own homes. Besides the ongoing social work services, child management specialists provided in-home skill teaching to families with developmentally delayed children up to age seven years or until they begin a school program. Also, behaviour management specialists provided services to older children and adults in order to lessen the extent to which inappropriate behaviours were exhibited.

DAY CARE SERVICES

There are at present forty-two licensed day care centres in the St. John's region. Nine new centres have been licensed within the past fiscal year, adding 331 spaces to the number available - 315 full-day spaces and sixteen half-day spaces (total now 1,228 spaces). There are presently sixteen new applications for licenses being processed, five of which are established half-day programs formerly registered with the Department of Education under the School's Act.

The Day Care Subsidy Program has increased substantially in the past fiscal year, from 218 subsidized children in March, 1986, to 455 subsidized children in March, 1987. Primarily, the recipients of the Day Care Subsidy Program are single parents employed/seeking employment and single parents in receipt of Social Assistance with children requiring enrichment. The Day Care Subsidy Program caseloads are unequally distributed within the St. John's area, with eighty-eight in the East District, 132 in the Centre District and 224 in the West District. The high workload in the West District office has been alleviated by the assignment of a clerical position with the Social Worker.

On-site visits have been made by regional management staff to several licensed centres in the region for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the range of services being provided, as well as soliciting views and concerns of operators/staff on matters relating to the Department's involvement in the Day Care Program. These visits were very well received.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES

There are presently four teaching Homemakers in the St. John's Region, two situated in the West District office and one in each of the East and Centre District offices. Quarterly meetings have commenced with Regional staff, District Office Supervisors and the Teaching Homemakers to share ideas and concerns, to participate in ongoing training and to continue to look at the role and the work objective of the Teaching Homemakers. These Homemakers teach parents improved child care techniques, budgeting skills and generally support the Social Worker's role in improving family functioning.

There are three licensed Homemaker Service Agencies in the St. John's Region with one new application for licensing in the process. Regional staff attended the public hearing recently held by the Interdepartmental Committee set up to look at the changes to be made to the present homemaker regulations.

PROGRAM CASELOADS BY DISTRICT, MARCH 31, 1987

DISTRICT OFFICE	SHORT TERM ASSIST-ANCE	LONG TERM ASSIST-ANCE	CHILD WELFARE	CORRECT-IONS	EMPLOY MENT OPPORTUN-ITIES*	REHAB-ILITATION	SENIOR CITIZENS	MENTAL RETARDAT-ION	HOME MAKER SERVICES	DAY CARE CENTERS	TOTAL
St. John's Centre	1,487	517	257	120		252	68	99	9	11	2,820
St. John's East	979	701	509	139		141	76	45	12	12	2,614
St. John's West	1,551	325	598	186		175	318	161	16	14	3,344
Bell Island	351	113	91	11		10	71	1	7	0	655
Kelligrews	480	181	187	47		64	347	34	-	2	1,342
Ferryland	121	60	50	18		2	36	10	-	-	297
TOTAL	4,969	1,897	1,692	521		644	916	350	44	39	11,072

* See Narrative

EASTERN REGION

The Eastern Regional Office is located at Harbour Grace, Conception Bay, and the region is comprised of twelve district offices located at Harbour Grace, Bay Roberts, Heart's Content, Whitbourne, St. Mary's, Placentia, Arnold's Cove, Clarenville, Bonavista, Bay L'Argent, Marystown and Grand Bank. These offices serve 265 communities from Peter's River in St. Mary's Bay, northward to include the community of Marysvale in Conception Bay and westward to include the Bonavista and Burin Peninsulas from Port Blandford to English Harbour East.

The following is a regional overview of the significant developments in each of the Department's programs:

REHABILITATION SERVICES

Social Workers have been designated in all twelve district offices to administer the program. During the year, eighty individuals entered some type of training program under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement. The three major areas of training facilities included community colleges, life skills programs and individualized employment placements.

The change in responsibility from the Division of Mental Retardation to the Rehabilitation Division for the provision of Vocational Rehabilitation Services stimulated considerable growth in this service throughout the region. With the increased emphasis in this program, more clients were placed in employment. Three Pre-employment and Placement Coordinator positions located at Marystown, Grand Bank and Bay Roberts played a significant role in placing individuals with developmental delays in employment in these districts.

A Rehabilitation Workshop was held at Bonavista involving district and regional staff, Canada Manpower officials and school personnel. Public awareness activities were initiated and continued during the year. In cooperation with district office staff, the Regional Program Coordinator met with various community organizations such as parent groups and schools to promote the Rehabilitation Program. Also, a pilot project was initiated at the Bonavista District Vocational School involving the integration of two adults with developmental delays in a regular hospitality catering program.

There were nine meetings of the Training Selection Committee during the year which dealt with a total of 113 referrals.

SENIOR CITIZENS

A considerable increase in activity relating to Services to Seniors was evident during the year in most districts, with an increase of 181 cases from the beginning to the end of the fiscal year.

Services to Seniors continued to be provided through Teaching-Homemaker positions at Harbour Grace and Bay Roberts and through Homemaker Projects under the Employment Opportunities Program.

The Social Work Program Coordinator continued to supervise the licensed boarding homes throughout the region. One home with a twenty-bed capacity closed in the Placentia District in March, 1987, and a home was reduced by six beds in the Bay Roberts district for renovations. These changes left a total bed capacity of 307 in nineteen homes in the region as of March 31, 1987.

There was an increased demand for placement in supervised boarding homes and nursing homes with a total of 167 applications received. Of this number, 108 required institutional care.

The demand for home support services for seniors increased dramatically during the year. Provision of these services through the Enriched Needs Legislation alleviated several emergency situations when nursing home beds were not available. However, many families experienced considerable difficulties due to the fact that no home care program was available. As a result, many districts encountered serious problems in finding suitable caregivers.

The Lions Manor Nursing Home opened in Placentia on September 20, 1986, with a seventy-five-bed capacity for level II and III nursing care. Also, work on the extension to Harbour Lodge, Carbonear, is continuing. When completed, it will offer an additional thirty-five nursing home beds.

Several meetings have been held in the Clarenville area in an effort to set up a Regional Committee to establish a Continuing Care Program to provide a higher quality of service to seniors in the area.

CHILD WELFARE

A slight increase in the total Child Welfare caseload occurred over the previous year. However, there was a very significant increase in the number of reported cases of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse. The total child abuse caseload in the region increased by forty from thirty-four cases at the beginning of the year to seventy-four cases on March 31, 1987. Fifty-five of this number were sexual abuse cases. This is a cause for much concern throughout the region particularly in terms of human resources capability. It is felt the increase in reporting is attributed mainly to public awareness activities at the district level. Three new Child Protection Teams were formed during the year bringing the total to four in the region as of March 31, 1987, and public awareness through various presentations is one of the main functions of these teams.

Three regular foster homes and one special foster home were licensed during the year for a total of 109 homes at the end of March, 1987.

A very successful Foster Parents Week was held from November 23rd to November 29th, 1986. Activities during the week included mall displays, afternoon teas, outings involving foster parents and foster children, speaking engagements and church-related activities. A regional workshop for foster parents was held at Clarenville on November 28th and 29th, 1986, which included a banquet. A total of eighty foster parents and twenty-six district and regional staff attended this event, and the response by foster parents and staff was extremely favorable.

YOUTH CORRECTIONS

Efforts were made during the year to establish at least one designated foster home or special foster home in each district to accommodate open custody placements. These efforts met with success in three districts. Staff will continue to concentrate on this objective in the remaining districts. One new home was licensed for open custody cases.

Significant increases in caseloads occurred in the districts of Heart's Content, Grand Bank and Bay Roberts during the year, resulting in a demand for services in these areas. This involved predisposition reports, counselling services, community service orders and probation services.

Owing to the introduction of the Young Offenders Act, the rate of turnover at the Whitbourne Group Home increased dramatically and requests from districts outside the region for placement continued to increase.

The Youth Corrections Coordinator responsible for Alternative Measures concentrated mainly on identifying the need for a program on the Burin Peninsula and in the Bay Roberts/Harbour Grace area. This involved many contacts with other professionals, particularly the police and Department of Justice officials. At the end of the fiscal year, members had been identified to serve on a Youth Justice Committee for the Bay Roberts district.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Tenders were awarded in February, 1987, for the construction of a group home at Carbonear. When completed, this facility will accommodate three mentally handicapped persons from Exon House. Similarly, in March, 1987, a contractor was engaged to renovate an existing structure for a group home at Bay Roberts which will accommodate four mentally handicapped persons also from Exon House. A new cooperative apartment was developed in Marystown, and plans for a group home in Clarenville have been approved.

An increase in activity was evident throughout the region, particularly in the area of community placements and respite services. Two half-time respite positions were approved for the Placentia District. In the region, thirty-three families were provided with respite through regular respite workers, eighteen through Special Child Welfare Allowances, and forty through Special Needs under the Social Assistance program. In addition, residential respite was provided to fourteen families, and forty-two General Service Plan meetings were held in the region for individual cases.

Local associations formed in the districts of Bonavista and Clarenville during the year have played an active role in advocating on behalf of persons with developmental delays. The associations have helped in decreasing services which continue to place heavy demands on our staff.

The emphasis moved from Life Skills Programs in the districts of Bay Roberts, St. Mary's Bay, Marystown and Grand Bank towards placing individuals into individualized programs in the community.

The total Mental Retardation caseload for the region increased by approximately 45% from 230 cases at the beginning of the year to 331 cases at the end of the year.

DAY CARE

In the Bay Roberts district a second day care centre was opened during the year. The Heart's Content District submitted an application expressing an interest in a seasonal operation in the Lower Trinity South area. This application is under consideration.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES

Two districts in the region have Teaching-Homemaker positions, while other districts express a need for such a position; however, no new positions were approved.

In most districts, Homemaker Services were provided in varying degrees to senior citizens and families under the Employment Opportunities Program and through Special Needs Assistance. Such a person was hired in the Whitbourne district to work with two protection families. As a result of this, eight children were prevented from coming into care. Through Homemaker Projects under Employment Opportunities, services were provided to as many as seventy senior citizens on a monthly basis in other districts.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This program continued to play a major role in providing employment for Social Assistance clients throughout the region. There were a total of 2,957 job placements during the year comprised of the following:

Regular Community Development	2,506
Employment Enhancement Program	384
Teaching Aids	51
Foster Children Placements	16

In June, 1986, a Regional Community Enhancement and Clean-up Project was approved for over $1,000,000. A coordinator was hired in November, 1986, and a promotional campaign began. Many contacts were made with community organizations such as town councils, community councils, local service clubs, developmental associations and various other groups. The community response was extremely favorable and, at the end of the fiscal year, plans were well underway to have all districts in the region involved in the program.

The Employment Enhancement Program, which started in October, 1986, proved to be most beneficial in enabling staff to be innovative in hiring persons who could not be placed on regular Community Development Projects. Such placements were possible through the training component of the program and the general broad criteria for hiring individuals.

During the year a renewed emphasis began to be placed on taking advantage of federal government programs in placing Social Assistance clients in employment. Under a federal program, the Upper Trinity

Development Association received funding for six months to start a printing business. Seven persons were hired in this venture and four of these persons were disabled. Two of the individuals were developmentally delayed and were receiving Social Assistance.

During the year emphasis was placed on identifying Social Assistance clients to match projects rather than creating projects which were unsuitable to individuals available for work.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

There was no significant regional change in the Social Assistance caseload from April 1986, to March, 1987.

The inshore cod fishery in most of the Trinity Bay and The Bonavista Bay areas was poor, which caused an increase in the Short-term Assistance caseload in the Clarenville district during the summer. On the other hand, a good fishing season was experienced in the Placentia Bay and Fortune Bay areas. Also, a good deep-sea fishery was evident on the Burin Peninsula with fishplants operating at full capacity for most of the year.

A reduction in the Social Assistance caseload in the Harbour Grace District from 924 cases in March, 1986, to 822 cases in March, 1987, was attributed mainly to the reopening of the fishplant at Harbour Grace during April, 1986. The acquisition of a new dragger with access to northern cod stocks provided much needed employment in the area.

Two other developments which helped to stabilize the economy in sections of the region included the reactivating of the oil refinery at Come by Chance which provided employment to nearly 300 persons and the opening of a new regional hospital at Clarenville offering employment to 168 individuals.

Utilization of the Employment Opportunities Program resulted in the caseload remaining relatively stable with an expenditure of $19,996,000.97 compared to $18,974,544.01 for the previous year.

REGIONAL SERVICES

Two new permanent positions were approved during the year. These included a Child Management Specialist position at Clarenville and a Social Work Program Coordinator (Child Welfare) position at the regional office. Two temporary Financial Assistance Officer positions were also approved at Bay Roberts and Harbour Grace. The total staff complement as of March 31, 1987, was eight-nine permanent positions, eighteen temporary positions and eighteen positions funded through the Employment Opportunities Division.

New office accommodations were provided in the districts of Clarenville and Harbour Grace, and approval was granted to call tenders for new offices in the Heart's Content district. Five additional offices and a boardroom were also acquired in the existing building in which the regional office is located.

Computer terminals were installed at Clarenville, Bay Roberts and

Harbour Grace offices which will facilitate more effective service delivery and administration of the Social Assistance Program.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During the fiscal year, a number of staff members attended relevant seminars/workshops. Among the most significant training events were the following:

- One Social Worker attended the first annual Forum of Missing Children held in Toronto in April, 1986.
- The Social Work Program Coordinator, Alternative Measures (Youth Corrections) attended two-week training sessions in June, 1986, November, 1986, and January, 1987.
- Six Social Workers and an Assistant Regional Director participated in a Child Sexual Abuse Workshop sponsored by the School Counsellor's Association of Newfoundland at Corner Brook in October, 1986.
- Nine district and two regional staff members attended a provincial group home training event held at Gander in November, 1986.
- Twenty-three district staff and an Assistant Regional Director participated in the conference on "Working With Children and Families" which took place at Gander in November, 1986.
- During Foster Parents' Week, District Managers and or/Social Workers from each district office attended foster parent training workshops held on November 28th and 29th, 1986, at Clarenville.
- Four District Managers participated in Public Service Commission training courses during the year.
- One District Manager attended the Management Training Workshop held at Lewisporte in February, 1987.
- Stenographers at Clarenville, Harbour Grace and Bay Roberts received computer training on two occasions.
- The Social Work Program Coordinator, Child Welfare Program, attended training at St. John's in March, 1987, in conjunction with the opening of the new Child Protection Unit.

PROGRAM CASELOADS BY DISTRICT, MARCH 31, 1987

DISTRICT OFFICE	SHORT TERM ASSIST-ANCE	LONG TERM ASSIST-ANCE	CHILD WELFARE	CORRECT-IONS	EMPLOY MENT OPPORTUN-ITIES	REHAB-ILITATION	SENIOR CITIZENS	MENTAL RETARDAT-ION	HOME MAKER SERVICES	DAY CARE CENTERS	TOTAL
Arnold's Cove	24	80	24	9	6	7	28	10	-	-	188
Bay L'Argent	84	53	21	4	32	1	8	12	-	-	215
Bay Roberts	399	301	142	56	179	13	94	35	9	2	1,230
Bonavista	150	235	97	16	-	16	77	9	-	-	600
Clarenville	442	187	158	40	68	9	74	31	-	1	1,010
Grand Bank	86	66	82	26	89	21	32	28	4	1	435
Harbour Grace	485	337	232	46	74	10	61	57	9	2	1,313
Heart's Content	80	88	74	10	11	22	35	22	7	-	349
Marystown	275	239	134	90	123	32	40	68	-	1	1,002
Placentia	183	103	87	29	25	10	77	20	-	1	535
St. Mary's	79	44	68	10	1	12	3	15	-	-	232
Whitbourne	151	70	67	13	-	7	70	24	63	-	465
TOTAL	2,438	1,803	1,186	349	608	160	599	331	92	8	7,574

CENTRAL REGION

The headquarters for the Central Region of the Department of Social Services is situated at Grand Falls. The boundaries of the region extend from Purbeck's Cove, White Bay, to Charlottetown, Bonavista Bay, and from McCallum to Rencontre East on the southern coastline. The region is divided into fourteen Social Services districts with headquarters at Baie Verte, Springdale, Grand Falls, Botwood, Lewisporte, Twillingate, Fogo, Carmanville, Wesleyville, Gambo, Glovertown, Gander, Milltown and Harbour Breton. The population of the region is 125,574.

Staff of the region are responsible for providing services in eight program areas including Rehabilitation Services, Senior Citizens, Child Welfare, Youth Corrections, Mental Retardation, Day Care and Homemaker Services, Employment Opportunities and Social Assistance. There was a general increase in requests for services and consequential increased activity in all program areas during the year. A brief report follows on each program area and on Regional Services and Staff Development activities.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Rehabilitation Division received 307 new referrals during the fiscal year. Seventy-nine people received formal training under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement. Two hundred and eighty-eight disabled persons were placed in employment through the combined efforts of the Rehabilitation and Employment Opportunities Divisions.

The "Exploits Community Employment Corporation" was formed in the Grand Falls area during the year as a result of the efforts of a group of interested people. The Corporation hired a full-time Employment Placement Coordinator in December, 1986, with funding provided by the Department of Social Services. The mandate of the Corporation is to develop job placements for developmentally delayed individuals. Two supported job placements have been developed; one will likely become permanent. Rehabilitation staff work closely with the Coordinator in providing referrals, hiring trainees and providing support services to individuals hired.

SERVICES TO SENIORS

Involvement in the area of delivery of basic and community-based services to seniors continued at an accelerated level during the year. Home support services were provided in many districts through the Employment Opportunities Program. Services including homemaker, housing repairs and health care were provided through the Social Assistance Special Enriched Needs Program in individual cases. Other essential services provided include completion of applications for admission to licensed boarding homes or nursing homes and services to residents of nursing homes and residents and operators of licensed boarding homes. There are four licensed boarding homes in the region located at Bishop's Falls, Ladle Cove, Musgrave Harbour and Porterville. There are five nursing homes located at Gander, Grand Falls, Lewisporte, Springdale and Valleyfield; also a chronic care facility is being developed at Botwood.

A Continuing Care Committee has been formed in Gander to plan strategy for implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Hospital and Nursing Home Costs. The Department of Social Services is represented on this committee which will cover the eastern area of the region.

CHILD WELFARE

At the end of March, 1987, 128 foster children were being cared for in 103 foster homes in the Central Region. This was a decrease of thirty-two foster children from March, 1986. Special Child Welfare Allowances were paid to sixty-three families with physically disabled children and Regular Child Welfare Allowances were being paid to 204 families. There was an overall decrease of fifty-four allowances paid out during the year as compared to 1985-86.

There were 251 adoptions in various stages of processing and fifteen new foster homes were licensed. Foster Parent Week activities were successful, and a Regional Foster Parent Training Workshop and banquet were held to conclude the week. During the year there was a significant increase in the number of alleged abuse cases reported in the region. A total of eighty-six cases were reported as compared to thirty-five cases in 1985-86. Two new Child Abuse Teams were established in the region-one in the Baie Verte district and one in the Milltown district. A Foster Parents' Association was established in the Baie Verte district as well.

YOUTH CORRECTIONS

The total regional Youth Corrections caseload at the end of March, 1987, was 362. This caseload consisted of 255 Community Corrections, seventy-eight Alternative Measures/Dispositional Options, nineteen Open Custody and ten Secure Custody. There were 520 referrals for service during the fiscal year.

Extensive planning continued in terms of the development of the open Custody Assessment Centre at Gander. This facility is expected to become operational in the next fiscal year. A proposal for the creation of Open Custody Foster Homes has also been developed.

The Alternative Measures/Dispositional Options Program was implemented in the region subsequent to the appointment of a Coordinator in July, 1986. An extensive needs assessment was completed throughout the region to determine priority areas for intervention. Preliminary activities have taken place to develop Alternative Measures Programs in Gander and in the Harbour Breton/Milltown districts. A Youth Diversion Program is already in operation in the Grand Falls district.

Some districts within the region have responsibility for the delivery of Adult Corrections Services. The caseload at the end of March, 1987, was forty-three; there were forty-eight referrals for service during the fiscal year.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Referrals for service in the Mental Retardation Program continued to increase. Service development in the area of new Special Foster Homes and Boarding Homes, Supportive Services and Supported Work have reflected increased demands. During the year approximately forty General Service Plans were completed for individuals with developmental delay. The Direct Home Service Program served thirty-four families per month, the Respite Care Program served fifty-eight families per month and the Behaviour Management Program served forty-nine families per month.

Twelve Special Foster Homes and nine Special Boarding Homes cared for thirty persons with developmental delays. The number of group homes for developmentally delayed adults remained at four. Extensive planning continued in the development of a group home at Lewisporte and final blueprint approval has been obtained. Construction of the home should begin in the spring of 1987.

The Special Child Welfare Allowance Program, although fluctuating according to the changing needs, served an average of eighty families per month. The caseload for March, 1987, was eighty.

The staff complement for Mental Retardation Services remained unchanged except for approval of a temporary Social Worker position in the Gander district office.

DAY CARE SERVICES

At the end of March, 1987, there were eight licensed day care centres in the region. Although this reflects a decrease of one from the previous year, there is every indication that rapid growth in the Day Care Program is imminent.

There was an increase in the number of enquiries received throughout the region and a number of applications are in various stages of processing. Consequently, an increase in the number of licensed centres is anticipated during the next fiscal year. Preschools, which at present come under the Department of Education, will be required to meet the Day Care Licensing Regulations as of September, 1987, and this too will result in increased activity in this program area during the next fiscal year.

The approval of Day Care Subsidies was delegated to the regional level during the past year. There were fifty children/families receiving subsidies at the end of March, 1987.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES

The Alexander Bay Community Services Program, Glovertown, was granted a license to operate a Homemaker Service effective December, 1986. This brought the total number of licensed services in the region to three. Similar programs are licensed and operational at Gander - Lakeside Community Services, and at Springdale - Valley Vista Homemaker Services. A proposal has been submitted for licensing of a Brookfield Hospital Homemaker Services/Home Care Program in Brookfield and is under consideration.

During the year, a complete needs assessment survey for teaching Homemaker Services throughout the region was undertaken. This assessment identified needs in various areas which cannot be addressed by the current complement of three Teaching Homemakers on staff. Some realignment was possible, however, with homemakers providing services in neighbouring districts.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Activity in the Employment Opportunities Program for the past year was sustained at a relatively high level and consequently averted a significant increase in the Social Assistance caseload. A total of 2,740 job placements were made at a cost of $6,517,054. This reflects an increase of thirty-one placements over the 1985-86 fiscal year, but a decrease in cost of $364,736.

Two thousand one hundred and sixteen placements were made on 240 regular projects; 298 placements were made on short-term projects; and 326 placements were made on 23 Employment Enhancement Projects. Two hundred and eighty-eight handicapped persons were placed in employment.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

As of March 31, 1987, the total Social Assistance caseload for the region was 4,046. This consisted of 1,538 long-term cases, 2,161 short-term manual cases and 347 short-term Computer Pay cases. This reflects an overall increase of sixty-nine cases in comparison with March, 1986.

A poor inshore fishery contributed to increased caseloads in districts such as Baie Verte, Springdale, Botwood, Twillingate and Wesleyville. This was, however, counteracted by lower caseloads in districts such as Harbour Breton, where the fishery was much better, and Grand Falls and Glovertown where general economic conditions were relatively very good. The major factor in avoiding a significant increase in the caseloads was the success of the Employment Opportunities Program; 2,740 clients were placed in employment under this program. One hundred and one cases of suspected abuse of the Social Assistance Program were investigated during the year. Forty-two cases were suspended as a result of these investigations.

A concerted effort was made during the year to improve upon the overall administration of the Social Assistance Program throughout the region. Computer terminals were replaced in three district offices-Botwood, Grand Falls and Lewisporte. Each of these offices is now into phase one of the computer program-imputing of the Long-term Social Assistance caseload.

The Regional Administrative Review Committee received a total of 188 requests for reviews during the year. In 121 cases the decision made at the district office level was upheld; in thirty-three cases the decisions were overruled; in thirty cases the problems had been resolved before a review was made by the Committee; and four cases did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Twenty-four cases appealed to the Social Assistance Appeal Board during the year. In nineteen cases decisions were upheld; in four cases decisions were overruled; and one case did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Appeal Board.

REGIONAL SERVICES

STAFFING

The total staff complement of the Central Region on March 31, 1987, was 128 including eighty-four permanent positions and forty-four temporary positions. Additionally, there were a number of support staff hired under the Employment Opportunities Program. This reflects an increase of fourteen positions during the year. The new approvals include a permanent Social Worker Supervisor for the Grand Falls district office, thirteen temporary positions consisting of one Social Work Program Coordinator (Youth Corrections), two Social Workers, two Financial Assistance Officers, four Community Development Workers and four Clerk Typists.

The Regional Office permanent staff complement includes the Regional Director, two Assistant Regional Directors, three Social Work Program Coordinators in the Employment Opportunities, Mental Retardation, and Rehabilitation Programs, one Financial Assistance Officer (Special Investigator), one Clerk IV (Analyst) and one Clerk Stenographer II.

Recruitment of Social Worker staff with the minimum qualifications of a Bachelor of Social Work Degree was a problem during the year. A number of vacant positions have been filled on a temporary basis by persons with other related degrees pending the availability of graduates with Social Work Degrees.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS

Four district offices within the region at Botwood, Fogo, Harbour Breton and Grand Falls are located in provincial government buildings. The remaining ten district offices and the regional office occupy leased accommodations. The separation of the Grand Falls District Office and the regional office was realized this year when the regional office was relocated to new leased accommodations. New and improved accommodations were also acquired in the Glovertown and Twillingate districts where the offices were relocated to new sites within the towns, and in the Wesleyville district where the office was relocated to new accommodations in Templeman. Accommodations were improved in other districts where leases were renewed such as Baie Verte, Carmanville, Gambo and Lewisporte.

DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGES

The community of McCallum was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Harbour Breton district to the Milltown district effective April 1, 1987. This change was made because of the easier acccess in service to the community from Bay D'Espoir and consequential improvement in service to the community.

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

Staff in many district offices throughout the region have been involved with municipal officials in developing and exercising Municipal Disaster Plans. Two staff members from the region attended the Health and

Welfare Canada - Community Emergency Planning (Social Services) Course at Arnprior during the year.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff of the Central region availed of a number of opportunities to attend job-related conferences, workshops and seminars within and outside the province during the year. Monthly regional teleconferences were scheduled and three regional management meetings were held. A one-day Orientation Workshop was held for staff working in the Mental Retardation Program; three half-day seminars were held for staff participating in the Employment Enhancement Program, Employment Opportunities Division. Other training activities included training in Computer Services and Crisis Intervention for staff working in Youth Corrections Group Homes.

Two staff members from the Central region had special education leave without pay approved to complete a Master of Social Work Degree and a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. Also, two staff had leave approved under the Summer Leave Program to attend university. Two District Managers and three Social Workers completed a Social Work Course through the teleconference medium.

The table on the following page shows the program caseloads for the region as of March 31, 1987.

PROGRAM CASELOADS BY DISTRICT, MARCH 31, 1987

DISTRICT OFFICE	SHORT TERM ASSIST- ANCE	LONG TERM ASSIST- ANCE	CHILD WELFARE	CORRECT- IONS	EMPLOY MENT OPPORTUN- ITIES	REHAB- ILITATION	SENIOR CITIZENS	MENTAL RETARDAT- ION	HOME MAKER SERVICES	DAY CARE CENTERS	TOTAL
Baie Verte	184	79	122	27	21	8	39	15	0	1	496
Botwood	271	197	92	49	8	11	40	11	13	2	694
Carmanville	227	94	43	10	4	8	38	13	2	0	439
Fogo	57	58	21	28	27	3	3	5	0	0	202
Gambo	226	103	59	22	87	7	5	6	20	0	535
Gander	108	79	108	17	7	22	28	26	2	2	399
Glovertown	106	70	52	11	6	16	38	5	0	0	304
Grand Falls	495	234	281	111	54	33	84	45	0	1	1,338
Harbour Breton	51	86	62	23	24	11	51	16	0	0	324
Lewisporte	208	201	127	17	6	13	36	24	14	1	647
Milltown	74	50	65	34	7	12	11	2	0	0	255
Springdale	208	87	165	40	20	18	67	74	1	0	680
Twillingate	193	97	79	16	20	6	44	26	3	1	485
Wesleyville	100	103	44	3	6	19	78	6	0	0	359
Total	2,508	1,538	1,320	408	297	187	562	274	55	8	7,157

WESTERN REGION

The Western Region encompasses that geographic area of insular Newfoundland commencing at Francois, westward to Port aux Basques, the whole West Coast and Northern Peninsula, as well as the area from Cape Bould to the Beaches in White Bay. The approximate population of this mainly rural area is 110,000 people residing in 200 communities.

REGIONAL SERVICES

The nine program areas for which the Department has legislated responsibility are delivered through twelve district offices and the Regional Office by approximately 150 staff of individual program-related disciplines. The past fiscal year saw the introduction of an Alternative Measures Coordinator and support staff to address that component of the Young Offenders Legislation. Ten new positions were created to enhance the development of the Employment Opportunities Program.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Generally, the areas in the Western Region, on the average, have the highest unemployment rates in the province. During the fiscal year it reached a high of 31% and averaged approximately 25%. Despite the enormous rate, it is not reflected in the Social Assistance caseload as caseloads remain relatively stable throughout the whole fiscal year. Only one district, that being Bonne Bay, showed any sizeable increase with the cause related to the decreased activity in the development of the Gros Morne National Park.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Employment Opportunities Program experienced continued growth during the fiscal year which is revealed through an overall increase of 150 cases over the preceding year. This year ended with the creation of 2,675 jobs at a cost of $9,100,000. A variety of quality projects were approved and successfully completed, but the highlight was the Beautification and Community Enhancement Project which employed some 700 people at a cost of $2,000,000, and the Home Support Project which employed 223 people at a cost of $861,297. Projects through the Employment Enhancement process were also approved during the fiscal year. These projects, employing 355 people and costing approximately $1,000,000, provided new training opportunities and work experience that will further enhance their employability. Two of these projects were the first in the province to be approved for one year with continuous intake of workers.

CHILD WELFARE

The Child Care and Protection caseload experienced the greatest single increase of any program for the period under review compared with that of the previous fiscal year. The one single component of this program which has shown the greatest increase is Child Sexual Abuse, and an example of this is the 180% increase experienced at the Channel District Office. The paramount factor influencing this increase is a greater public awareness of the problem.

YOUTH CORRECTIONS

The Alternative Measures Program was further promoted through the hiring of a Regional Coordinator. A new Open Custody Youth Resource Centre, under the sponsorship of the Salvation Army, was approved and will provide placements for seven young offenders. The present three group homes and increased foster homes designated as Open Custody constitute approximately thirty placements which is the greatest number of such placements in any region in the province. The Adult Corrections caseload, which is carried by the district offices of Burgeo, Channel, Bonne Bay, Port Saunders, Flower's Cove, Englee and St. Anthony, continues to increase. The end of the fiscal year saw 209 cases compared with 179 for the previous year. Overall, there has been a continuous increase in Youth Corrections with 100 cases more than the previous fiscal year.

DAY CARE

There was an increase of two Preschool Day Care Centres in the region during the past fiscal year. Consumer inquiries as well as requests for information from prospective developers have increased significantly. An increased number of committee and lobby groups have been formed throughout the region, and plans are well under way to introduce a Training Program for Day Care Workers at the Fisher Institute of Applied Arts & Technology in Corner Brook.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES

While the staffing complement remained constant in the Homemaker staff, there was continued supportive service through a very vibrant Home-Aid Project carried out through the Community Development process. These projects operated in the districts of Englee, Burgeo, Channel, Stephenville Crossing, Stephenville, Corner Brook, Bonne Bay, Port Saunders, Flower's Cove and Deer Lake and employed 223 persons. Through this process a total of 725 persons were provided a variety of In-Home Services.

MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

During the course of the fiscal year, approval was given to have Newfoundland and Labrador Housing construct two group home facilities. These homes, when completed, will provide accommodations for six mentally handicapped young adults presently at Exon House as well as two from the community at large. The first Provincial Employment Corporation, whose role is to access employment for mentally handicapped adults, was established in Stephenville.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

Planning toward a vocational goal for mentally and physically handicapped adults showed a marked increase in activity throughout the region. Some of the more noted milestones reached was the hiring of a Pre-employment Coordinator at Channel and St. Anthony, the establishment of the first Provincial Employment Corporation at Stephenville and the implementation of the Supportive Work Placement for Mentally Handicapped Persons in the Channel, Stephenville, Piccadilly and St. Anthony districts. Overall, the Rehabilitation caseload in the region increased by 35%.

SERVICES TO SENIORS

The region experienced a significant increase of 150 cases related to Services to Seniors compared to the preceding fiscal year. The concept of initiating the Fee-For-Service process to enable seniors to remain in their own homes was one of the highlights. A significant planning process is in place in the region to identify health and social service needs. A Western Regional Advisory Committee comprised of hospitals, senior citizens' homes, Social Services and other helping agencies was formed and a professional Management Consultant was hired to complete a comprehensive study. A noteworthy service introduced in the districts of Englee, Deer Lake, Channel, Stephenville Crossing, Stephenville, Corner Brook and Piccadilly was Handiman Services which provided property maintenance to some 450 seniors at a labour cost, through Community Development, of approximately a half million dollars.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Individualized staff training opportunities continued to play an important role in personal development of staff. As well, there were a number of major events that addressed specific service areas such as a Child Abuse Seminar held at Stephenville for all management and Child Welfare staff. A number of management staff were privileged to attend the Management Training Seminar.

PROGRAM CASELOADS BY DISTRICT, MARCH 31, 1987

DISTRICT OFFICE	SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE	LONG TERM ASSISTANCE	CHILD WELFARE	CORRECTIONS	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	REHABILITATION	SENIOR CITIZENS	MENTAL RETARDATION	HOME MAKER SERVICES	DAY CARE CENTERS	TOTAL
St. Anthony	39	73	39	31	23	6	23	42	0	0	276
Englee	35	27	72	43	8	21	121	24	0	0	351
Burgeo	47	31	45	44	15	25	29	7	0	0	243
Channel	260	144	312	126	120	15	80	96	20	0	1,173
Stephenville Crossing	370	190	169	98	64	14	239	16	16	11	1,187
Stephenville	423	109	341	53	92	12	73	40	16	2	1,161
Corner Brook	308	783	436	196	167	41	70	95	23	5	2,124
Bonne Bay	101	84	96	76	24	0	72	15	0	1	469
Port Saunders	53	23	28	39	22	2	104	2	0	0	273
Flower's Cove	6	36	11	16	0	0	56	1	0	0	126
Deer Lake	314	162	160	29	110	8	53	17	4	1	858
Piccadilly	375	184	211	47	94	18	32	30	12	0	1,003
TOTAL	2,331	1,846	1,920	798	739	162	952	385	91	20	9,244

LABRADOR REGION

The Labrador Regional Office has responsibility for the implementation of all the Department's programs and services throughout Labrador. The Regional Office, with a staff of eight, is centrally located in Happy Valley, Goose Bay and oversees the operation of nine district offices located at Cartwright, Davis Inlet, Forteau, Happy Valley, Hopedale, Mary's Harbour, Nain, Sheshatshiu and Wabush. The total staff complement for the region includes thirty-two permanent staff together with twenty-eight temporary positions.

The following will provide a brief overview of significant activities and development in each program area:

REGIONAL SERVICES

The 1986/87 fiscal year was very active and rewarding in regard to office and staff accommodations throughout the region. New, modern office accommodations were secured, in cooperation with the Department of Public Works, for the Labrador Regional Office and the district offices in Davis Inlet and Hopedale. As well, extensive renovations were completed at the Cartwright and Mary's Harbour district offices. Additional space was allocated to the Happy Valley District Office through a reassignment of office space in the Elizabeth Goudie Provincial Building when the regional office relocated. Identified needs for office furniture and equipment were met resulting in improved work environments.

In cooperation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation a new staff residence was constructed for the district office in Hopedale. This modern, completely furnished bungalow offers a secure, comfortable residence for the Hopedale staff. The Mennonite Central Committee, with which the Department has developed and maintained a staffing contract in Davis Inlet, constructed a new staff residence allowing the Department to relinquish a mobile home unit, which has been inadequate for some time.

Staff recruitment and retention remains a particular challenge throughout the region, and during the year considerable staff turnover was experienced. A total of twenty-five new staff were recruited to various positions throughout the region. A number of discussions have been held with the School of Social Work and the Public Service Commission in regard to the recruitment of professional Social Work staff and the need to expand the role of indigenous people in the delivery of service in their community and culture. There is optimism that the advent of the Labrador Community College will provide increased opportunities to develop training programs which will alleviate many of the difficulties presently faced.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Social Assistance caseload totalled 704 cases on March 31, 1987, as compared to 793 on March 31, 1986. Thirty percent of the caseload was on computer pay system in March, 1987, as compared to 33% in March, 1986. About 10% of the cases are paid by the mail-in procedure, while the other 60% are assisted by home and/or office interviews.

The major increases in the Social Assistance caseload in the months of June and November were in step with fishing income and fishermen's Unemployment Insurance Benefits. However, the people receiving financial assistance are continually changing due to the fishery, termination of Unemployment Insurance Benefits, placements on Employment Opportunities Projects and new cases generally. Thus the actual cases vary from month to month as extensive efforts are continually made to terminate the financial assistance as soon as clients come on the caseload. This, along with an emphasis to hire disabled clients, has resulted in less cases being paid by the computer system.

Some 689 Social Assistance clients were placed on Employment Opportunities Projects in Labrador during this fiscal year as well as thirty-six on Social Assistance Recipient Federal Projects. Clients often request assistance while awaiting Unemployment Insurance Benefits and when there are delays experienced in receiving such benefits due to mail delivery problems. The total caseload could be lower if it were not for many emergency cases being assisted.

Only one internal audit was done during this fiscal year and that was of the Sheshatshiu District Office. Overall, there is a keen recognition of the need to administratively improve the delivery of social assistance in this region. A Regional Social Assistance Workshop was held for five district offices in June, 1986, with monitoring being done at the regional office level. The Short-term Assistance recovery rate has increased to over 82% since November, 1986, and credit balances have been eliminated in seven of the nine districts. Substitute Social Insurance Numbers are being eliminated; as well, efforts are ongoing to improve the statistical information in the system.

Five of the district offices have full-time Financial Assistance Officers while three offices obtained half-time Financial Assistance Officers in February, 1987, under the Community Development Program. Overall, the delivery of the Social Assistance Program is constantly being adjusted and refined to provide a good service to our clientele and to adhere to the policies and procedures of the program.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

During the 1986/87 fiscal year, there were 578 people hired on Regular Projects and 111 people hired on Employment Enhancement Projects as follows:

Number of Projects	Number Hired	Funds Spent
11 - RS	86	$ 440,416
6 - SA	30	188,937
38 - CD	462	1,363,016
14 - EEP	111	451,935
69	689	$2,444,304

Of the 689 hired, there were 483 family heads, 120 single people, fifty-five disabled people and thirty-one in other categories. The activity in this fiscal year represents a 54% increase over the 453 people hired in the 1985/86 fiscal year. As of March 31, 1987, there were some 152 people still working on the various projects throughout the region. There are now three Community Development Workers, one Clerk

Stenographer, two full-time Financial Assistance Officers and three half-time Financial Assistance Officers in the region. Seven of these positions were created in this fiscal year. Only Davis Inlet and Cartwright District Offices are without a Community Development staff position.

The emphasis remains towards district projects as fifty-five of the sixty-nine projects were district projects. Some unique projects included the Innu Band Training Course in Sheshatshiu and a Horticulture/Peat Development Project in Port Hope Simpson. The last project created provided nine disabled people with employment.

The Canada Employment Centre/Social Services Liaison Committee in Goose Bay started in January, 1987, and has continued to meet on a regular basis and deal with areas of common concern. Some thirty-six Social Assistance recipients were hired on six Social Assistance Recipient Projects in five districts for about twelve weeks of employment each.

The Forteau District made a complete assessment of the Long-term Assistance caseload in that district to determine which clients were capable of accepting employment. It is anticipated that 50% of their clients will go on projects in the coming fiscal year. The Outreach Program in Sheshastshiu has affected the delivery of the Employment Opportunities Program in that projects are arranged around the Outpost Program and projects are reflecting the culture and lifestyle of the Innu people.

REHABILITATION

During the 1986/87 fiscal year, there were five meetings of the Regional Training Selection Committee. A total of sixteen cases were approved for funding under the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Program; this number included three students at Memorial University, seven at the Life Skills Program at the local District Vocational School and six to other training centres. These sixteen cases represent a 14% increase in approved cases from the 1985/86 fiscal year. Also, some fifty-five disabled persons were hired on various Employment Opportunities Projects throughout the region in the fiscal year.

A Pre-employment Placement Officer was funded in the Happy Valley District through a grant from Social Services and started work in September, 1986. This position has involved much public relations, employer contact, and has resulted in four supported work placements so far. The workers were paid through Canada Employment Centre funds while the support staff were paid under Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons funds.

Labrador's first transition house, Libra House, enjoyed a successful year of operation having first opened its doors in March, 1986, in Happy Valley. This facility provides a valuable service for battered and abused women and their children from all over Labrador; a total of fifty women and ninety-eight children were accommodated at the transition house up to March 31, 1987.

CHILD WELFARE

Child Protection Services have continued to receive increased attention with particular emphasis being placed on the development of community-based services to allow children to remain with their natural family. In cases where this is not possible, special efforts are directed toward placements with relatives or suitable families in the child's home community. This is especially the case where native children are involved. Experience has demonstrated in Labrador and elsewhere that the removal of a child from his family and community is traumatic and, where distinct cultures are involved, further complications result. Although it is difficult to identify specific programs and services initiated to achieve this goal, staff have demonstrated resourcefulness and initiative and have achieved remarkable success in this regard. No Innu children have been removed from the communities of Davis Inlet and Sheshatshiu during the past fiscal year, and only a small number of special needs children (ie., severe delays, adolescents) have been placed outside the four Inuit communities. Significant emphasis is being placed on the development of definite plans for those children entering care, and this has enhanced the process of children returning home.

In support of this community-based approach to Protection Services, emphasis has been directed towards the development of Child Protection Teams in each of the districts where concern for protection warrants their development. These teams are now being developed or are firmly established in Nain, Davis Inlet, Mary's Harbour, Happy Valley and Wabush. Objectives to establish similar working groups have been established for the Hopedale and Sheshatshiu Districts. These groups not only promote and enhance case management of serious child abuse; they as well encourage and promote the involvement of the community in the development of family support services and prevention programs. As well, significant success has been realized in the promotion of foster care, especially in many of our native communities. Foster care is used extensively for periods of temporary care during times of family crisis and has prevented children from entering care on a long-term basis or being removed from their home community. Activities during Foster Parent Week, which was held from November 23rd to 29th, encompassed four separate banquets in recognition of the contribution of foster families. The banquets were held in Wabush, Nain, Happy Valley and Sheshatshiu, together with various promotional and training activities. Furthermore, the innovative use of Child Welfare Allowances and Special Needs funding have greatly assisted the purchase of home support services and the development of the community-based approach.

One specific development, indicative of this overall approach, was initiated in Sheshatshiu with the closing of the Children's Group Home. The need for this facility was eliminated through the recruitment of local foster families and the diminished need to apprehend children due to the provision of support services. In conjunction with the Division of Child Welfare, the region was successful in securing four additional Social Worker positions in lieu of savings experienced with the closure of this group home (annual budget for the facility averaged $150,000). Unfortunately, these positions were only approved on a temporary basis, and it appears that they will not continue.

A total of forty-nine adoptions were at various stages of processing during the past fiscal year. Consistent with the current provincial trends,the Labrador District Offices have not been in a position to deliver a full service due to a shortage of infants available for adoption.

YOUTH CORRECTIONS

The total Youth Corrections caseload for the Labrador Region as of March 31, 1987, was 233. On a per-capita basis these statistics, together with statistics available from the Department of Justice in regards to the numbers of young offenders actually appearing in court, remain well above the provincial average.

During the 1986/87 fiscal year, a total of forty-three offenders served a period of Open Custody and twenty-eight served Secure Custody sentences, for a total Custody caseload for the region of seventy-one. Once again, this remains well above the provincial average. Young offenders serving Secure Custody are accommodated at Pleasantville Youth Centre with a small minority being transferred to the Whitbourne Youth Centre on the basis of individual needs assessments. Open Custody sentences are placed in one of three Open Custody group homes - two in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, and one in Sheshatshiu. A total of eighteen placements are available in these three group homes. The Labrador and Lake Melville Group Homes in Happy Valley are operated by the United Church Council of Social Ministries with a locally appointed Board of Directors and these two homes continue to provide an excellent standard of programming.

The whole area of Community Corrections, - i.e., Probation Services- is important to this region, especially regarding the number of young offenders who receive custody sentences. However, with a total probation caseload of 102, present staffing in the area of custody dictates that less than optimal attention is being provided to this responsibility. In addition, seven of our district offices continue to provide Adult Correctional Services, and this service area remains a significant factor in many of our districts (e.g., Nain, where there is a demanding caseload of twenty-two).

In August, 1986, a Regional Coordinator was appointed to the Regional Office as part of a provincial initiative in the area of Alternative Measures and Dispositional Options. Emphasizing the development of community-based programs and organizing committees to mobilize and manage community resources, the coordinator completed an assessment of the region in late December identifying priority areas. The assessment indicated that priority be placed on assisting the existing Happy Valley/Goose Bay Committee to develop their capacity to operate an Alternative Measures Program and a Community Service Order Program. It was felt that many of the techniques and resource materials developed in this district would also assist the Labrador West District where a similar program and committee is in existence. The predominately native community of Nain was also identified as a priority, particularly because of the high rates of youth coming into conflict. While the initiatives offer some interesting possibilities for native communities to be more directly involved in youth justice service delivery, it was realized that a different approach would be needed to realize this potential. Information on community-involvement methods obtained by the coordinator at the Northern Conference on Community Involvement (Whitehorse, March/87) will be valuable to this effort. Concurrent developmental work is underway with the Nain Diversion Committee encouraging involvement in youth justice issues.

DAY CARE

There are two licensed day care centres in Labrador West, two in Happy Valley/Goose Bay and one in Nain. The subsidies during the fiscal year for this region totalled $75,126. A special subsidy rate was approved for Nain, where all fifteen spaces are subsidized by this department. There are presently three other day care centres, one each in Labrador City, Hopedale and Black Tickle which operate through the school system. There are plans currently underway to open day care centres in Churchill Falls, Port Hope Simpson and L'Anse Au Loup. The Early Childhood Development Association in Happy Valley is an active association, and the Boards of the centres continue to function adequately. Community interest in day care issues has increased and numerous requests for information and services are forthcoming from both prospective and licenced centres. Day Care Services continue to be utilized by our offices as a means of providing direct support to families.

HOMEMAKER SERVICES

Homemaker Services are provided throughout the region utilizing a variety of funding sources. Permanent staff positions at our Nain, Sheshatshiu and Happy Valley District Offices provide support services to families where child care remains a major concern. In other districts, Homemaker Services are provided using the Employment Opportunities Program, Special Needs/Enriched Needs, and Special Child Welfare Allowances.

MENTAL RETARDATION

Services to families and individuals with a developmental delay have expanded significantly during the past fiscal year. In March, 1987, Hamilton Heights Group Home was opened to accommodate three residents returning to the community from Exon House. The group home is sponsored by the United Church Council of Social Ministries and is administered through a volunteer community board. A fourth resident is being considered for placement in the near future.

Other community-based services such as Direct Home Services and Community Behavioural Services continue to service the districts of Wabush, Happy Valley and Sheshatshiu. Also, the Direct Home Services Program is currently implementing an Early Intervention Needs Assessment Project throughout the Labrador coastal communities. A Child Management Specialist has been hired to evaluate each community to determine the feasibility of providing Early Intervention Services to outlying coastal communities serving twenty-four families.

Respite Services continue to be provided in the communities o Wabush, Labrador City, Happy Valley/Goose Bay and Churchill Falls by fou part-time respite positions. Respite is also being provided to individua families through the use of the Special Child Welfare Allowance and Special/Enriched Needs. Other home support services, such as day care special equipment, etc., continue to be purchased using the Special Chil

Welfare Allowance, Special/Enriched Needs, etc., as funding mechanisms. Presently there are fourteen Special Child Welfare Allowance recipients in the Labrador Region.

During the past year, seven teachers' aids were approved through the Community Development Program to provide services to schools throughout the region.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Staff, in conjunction with the Paddon Memorial Home and community groups, remain extensively involved in the provision of home support services to allow seniors to remain at home throughout the region. These home support services are provided through the Employment Opportunities Program, Special Needs/Enriched Needs, and are arranged with the full participation of those seniors involved and interested community groups. New Horizon Groups continue to function successfully in Labrador City/Wabush, Happy Valley/Goose Bay, Forteau and Rigolet.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During the fiscal year, a large percentage of staff were provided the opportunity to participate in various workshops and conferences. These included a number of provincial conferences focusing on child abuse and a five-day Regional Training Workshop for staff involved in Child Welfare which was held in Happy Valley, Goose Bay in June, 1986. As well, two staff members attended national conferences in Ontario on Adoption Services and in the North West Territories on Youth Corrections in Northern Communities. Regional management meetings were held twice during the fiscal year for all management personnel.

PROGRAM CASELOADS BY DISTRICT, MARCH 31, 1987

DISTRICT OFFICE	SHORT TERM ASSIST-ANCE	LONG TERM ASSIST-ANCE	CHILD WELFARE	CORRECT-IONS	EMPLOY MENT OPPORTUN-ITIES	REHAB-ILITATION	SENIOR CITIZENS	MENTAL RETARDAT-ION	HOME MAKER SERVICES	DAY CARE CENTERS	TOTAL
Cartwright	16	10	19	8	4	0	20	0	0	0	77
Davis Inlet	45	2	39	14	3	0	5	0	0	0	108
Forteau	34	46	17	8	8	4	45	2	0	0	164
Happy Valley	125	63	107	56	39	22	79	32	0	2	525
Hopedale	37	13	47	22	25	0	5	0	0	0	149
Mary's Harbour	29	32	18	11	17	4	13	0	0	0	124
Nain	61	17	94	46	19	0	7	0	13	1	258
Sheshatshiu	99	2	113	27	22	13	10	17	5	0	308
Wabush	52	21	88	41	15	2	0	38	0	2	259
TOTAL	498	206	542	233	152	45	184	89	18	5	1,972

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Staff Development Division was established in 1973 to meet the training and developmental needs of staff of the Department of Social Services. In addition to training, there is within the Division's mandate human resource management activities which include performance review and recruitment of Social Workers.

GROUP HOME CONFERENCE

On October 24th and 25th, 1986, the Department of Social Services sponsored a Provincial Conference on Group Homes which was coordinated and organized by this division. The Conference was the first of its kind and was planned as an opportunity for this department to reaffirm its committment to, and support of, the Group Home Program and highlighted the vital role played by the various Group Home Boards in the provision of this essential service. A total of forty group homes from all areas of Newfoundland and Labrador sent representatives, and Social Services staff who worked directly with the Boards in various capacities participated as well.

The Conference provided participants with the opportunity to discuss with departmental staff issues and concerns. Through workshops it also provided information on collective bargaining, financial issues in running a group home and discussion around staff and Board training issues.

The Board representatives attending the Conference were very enthusiastic about having the opportunity to come together and present ideas and discuss issues and concerns. One of the immediate results has been initial discussion around the possibility of establishing a Provincial Association of Group Home Boards.

PROVINCIAL CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE

From November 3rd to 6th, 1986, the Newfoundland Association of Social Workers and the Department of Social Services cosponsored a conference "Working with Children and Families: A Social Work Perspective". The Conference evolved following an invitation to the Department of Social Services by the Association to work together on a major training event for Social Workers - an idea which had been discussed since the formation of the D.O.S.S./N.A.S.W. Liaison Committee. The Department of Social Services funded the Conference, and a steering committee compiled of members of the Board of N.A.S.W. and staff of the Department did the planning.

The Division coordinated the activities of the Committee, which was assisted in its efforts by Ms. Wanda Lundrigan, who was hired on contract to work with the Division in planning/organizing the Conference.

The majority of participants at the Conference were Child Welfare Workers of the Department. However, there were also participants from other agencies including the Unified Family Court, the Social Work Department at the Janeway Hospital, private agencies, Status of Women Councils, health settings in Central Newfoundland and the R.C.M.P.

The first evening was highlighted by an address by Dr. Robin Badgley, Chairperson of the Committee on Sexual Offenses Against Children and Youths. A panel followed with responses by Mr. George Savoury, Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Services; Judge R. A. Fowler, from Grand Falls; and Mr. John Meston, Executive Director of the Canadian Child Welfare Association.

For the next three days, participants chose from a number of concurrent workshops which focused mainly in the area of treatment but included presentations around policy in the area of children's services as well. Topics included the following: adoption services; effects of parental loss - implications for foster care; working with women and children in a transition setting; working with abusive families; giving evidence - mock trial; child abuse and the school; the best interest of the child - a legal perspective; working with adolescents; the effects of separation and divorce on children; working with families - a forum on incest; family therapy in Child Welfare; a systems approach to family therapy; parent effectiveness training; alternatives for early school years; clinical supervision in Child Welfare; and a team approach to the investigation of child abuse.

In addition to concurrent workshops, there were a number of general sessions which focused on the following areas: the availability of children's mental health services; women and children in the province living below the poverty line; the use of volunteers in children's agencies; support to professional staff; and the problem of missing children.

The Conference evaluations were very positive, and several areas were considered for further training. These included crisis management in child welfare, further training in legal issues, particularly giving evidence; and increased knowledge of sexual abuse. As well, management staff commented very favourably on the workshop in Clinical Supervision and pointed out the need for further training in this area.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

A one-half day workshop for managers in the Eastern Region was given by the Division in May, 1986. The content focused on management skills in working with difficult employees.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING COMMITTEE

Activities of this committee were coordinated by the Staff Development Division. The Committee structure was changed to allow participation by all regions and all management levels. The major task of the Committee was the selection of a proposal for management training to be offered to all management employees within the Department. The Committee used the results of the Management Needs Analysis in requesting proposed submissions, and the Committee heard the submission of two management consulting agencies. The Public Service Commission's Staff Development and Training Division assisted in the process, and the proposal of Permax Inc., was selected.

Mr. Laurent Barrette of Permax was contacted through the Public Service Commission to deliver a series of six workshops to take place from February - June, 1987. The Division's responsibility was to provide the link between the Public Service Commission and Permax, working with the trainer to ensure content was tailored to meet specific needs of the managers of the Department and coordination of all workshop activities.

EDUCATIONAL LEAVE WITH PAY

This year the Department continued its program of Educational Leave with Pay to complete B.S.W. and M.S.W. placements. Three staff completed the M.S.W. placement requirement, and two staff completed the B.S.W. placement.

EDUCATIONAL LEAVE - SUMMER STUDIES

This department supported nine staff to attend summer studies in 1986. Staff who were approved received three weeks with pay and used three weeks' annual leave.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM: STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Division was involved in the presentation of a workshop for staff of the Western Region who have responsibility for the Rehabilitation Program. The workshop was arranged by the Rehabilitation Division, and this division's input was the development of a component which focused on heightened awareness of the factors which influence worker/client relationship in the rehabilitation process.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP - LABRADOR

On June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th a Stress Management Workshop was held in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, for Labrador staff. The Division was involved in coordinating this joint initiative between the Department of Social Services and the Newfoundland Association of Social Workers.

The objective of the workshop was to heighten staff awareness of work conditions and lifestyle that can increase the risk of stress leading to job-burnout and to look at individualized plans for dealing with stress. Some emphasis was placed on the particular stresses experienced by staff who work in isolated northern communities.

CHILD ABUSE WORKSHOP - WESTERN REGION

This division was invited to give a presentation at the Workshop on Child Protection organized by the Western Region and held from June 9th to the 12th, 1986, in Stephenville. The focus of the presentation was on the Social Worker's role in responding to abuse.

CHILD ABUSE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION UNIT - TRAINING, FEBRUARY, 1987

The Division assisted in developing a two-week training program for the staff of the new Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention Unit. Other staff included were back-up workers for the Unit from the St. John's

Region District Offices and one representative from each of the other four regions.

Areas covered including the following: team approach to child abuse, legal issues, interviewing skills with abusive families and use of special techniques. The second week was designed to familiarize staff with the services available in the community which could be utilized by the Unit. The training took place at the Department's Library and Resource Centre.

FOSTER PARENTS WEEK - EASTERN REGION

The Division presented a workshop at the Foster Parents Training Workshop held on November 28th and 29th in Clarenville.

The focus of the presentation was on foster parenting the preschooler and the importance of working to maintain ongoing contact between the child and the natural parent.

LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE

The Library is continuing to offer a service to staff across the island. A major task is the cataloguing of all holdings and the ordering of current materials. It is hoped that in the next few months a complete Acquisition List can be made available to all staff.

The Library is also endeavouring to assist staff in the development of workshops by putting together packages of information on various topics.

EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS

Selected staff of the Department attended workshops, seminars an conferences organized by other community groups. These included th following:

April	9-11	Union Objectives Seminar, Niagara-on-the-Lake
April	16-18	Managing the Training Function Ottawa
April	28-May 2	Effective Classroom Instruction, Toronto
April	21-24	Training of Trainers in Suicide Prevention, St. John'
April	24	Ethical & Legal Issues in Practice, St. John's
May	1-3	Integration in Action, Gander
May	5	Rational - Emotive Therapy and the Resistant Client, St. John's
May	13-15	Sexuality and the Handicapped, Gander
June	4-8	"Reach Out" - Conference of and for Deaf-Blind Persons, University of Toronto
June	19-22	Annual Training Conference on Employment "The Employment Challenge in Social Services, Ontario
June	2-3	Stress Management Workshop, Goose Bay
June	8-11	Violence in Contemporary Canadian Society, Ottawa
July	21-31	The Complete School: Strategies for Achievin Integration, Toronto
August	7-27	Conference on Adoptable Children, Toronto
August	26-27	The Search for Strength in Families, St. John's

October	Alcohol & Drug Dependency Commission Workshop on Alcohol Abuse, Labrador
October 16-17	Child Sexual Abuse, Corner Brook
October 20-21	Trends in Special Education: Individual Program Planning, St. John's
November 13-14	Workshop: Family Mediation Training, St. John's
November 27	Work and Income in the Nineties, St. John's
November 6-9	Canadian Association for Community Living - National Conference, Montreal
November 27-	Reality Therapy Certification Program, Gander
December 1	Reality Therapy Training - Level II, Stephenville
December 8-9	Enhancing the Communication Skills of Persons who are Nonspeaking, St. John's
February 4-5/87	Psychiatry: The Client, The Family, and You, St. John's
February 23	Hanen Early Language Workshop, St. John's
October 2-6/86	Reality Therapy - Basic Workshop, Port aux Basques

MAJOR OBJECTIVES/ISSUES FOR 1987-88

1. It is planned that an Orientation Program for Social Workers will be developed during 1987-88. This area has been identified by all staff as a major training need within the Department. This will be the beginning of a process which will review the need for structured orientation for all staff - both at a provincial and regional level.

2. Group Home Program: There has been identified a critical need for training for Boards and staff in the Group Home Program. This need will be addressed by the hiring of a temporary Staff Development Officer for a one-year contract. The primary task will be to work with the Boards and Divisions to identify and priorize training needs and begin the process of meeting these needs through training and other developmental activities.

3. Efforts will continue towards the development of a performance review system for nonmanagement staff.

4. A manual will be developed which will provide staff with access to all departmental policies regarding staff development and training.

5. Efforts will be made towards the development of Regional Staff Development Committees.

ADMINISTRATION

The major responsibilities of the Administration Division include the following:

- To ensure that by proper planning, direction, supervision, development of procedures and guidelines, advice and consultation with divisional heads, the administrative and financial activities affecting the Department are carried out in an effective and efficient manner in Financial Services, Personnel and Business Management, and Central Registry, and that services performed are in accordance with the applicable legislative authorities.
- To ensure the proper allocation of funds provided in the Estimates and to maintain constant liaison with government financial officials.
- To provide advice and consultation to the Executive and the Minister on financial implications of ongoing and new programs and to ensure compliance with legislation.
- To coordinate the preparation of the Department's Annual Estimates.

For the year ending March 31, 1987, the total current account expenditure was $181,364,082 while related revenue totalled $81,167,685 which included $81,139,785 received from the federal government in connection with various cost-sharing agreements. The following is a summary of Expenditures by Object of Expenditure:

Salaries	$ 54,142,970	(1)
Employee Benefits	14,699	
Transportation & Communications	1,718,985	
Supplies	1,439,210	
Professional Services	951,738	(2)
Purchased Services	922,519	
Property, Furniture & Equipment	306,576	
Allowances and Assistance	116,037,663	
Grants & Subsidies	5,804,322	
Debt Expenses	25,700	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$181,364,082	

(1) Salaries include an amount of $30,675,727 for persons employed on Community Development Related Projects and Employment Enhancement Projects.

(2) Included in this amount is $762,200 for production, maintenance and development of Computer System.

ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

- During the year, sixteen claims valued at $70,410,800 were prepared and submitted under the Canada Assistance Plan Agreement. Fourteen claims valued at $1,835,800 were prepared and submitted under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement (VRDP), and twelve claims valued at $95,400 were prepared and submitted under the Work Activity section of the Canada Assistance Plan Agreement.

- During the year, a concerted effort was made to update the completion of final claims for all federal/provincial agreements. Final claims have now been completed and submitted for 1985-86 for CAP (Canada Assistance Plan) and 1983-84 VRDP (Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons) and for 1985-86 for Work Activity.
- During the year, Accounts Division processed and submitted to Finance for payment 21,000 vouchers and travel claims and 565 imprests.
- At the end of March, 1987, there were 72,900 case files and 3,700 subject files in Registry.
- During the year, the Division coordinated the preparation and submission of forty-five Transfer of Funds requests on behalf of Program directors to Treasury Board.
- The Division is responsible for submitting requests to the Public Service Commission for the filling of permanent positions, and 127 such requests were forwarded during the year.

INTERNAL AUDIT

The Division of Internal Audit consists of a staff of five which is made up of a permanent staff including the Manager, two Auditors and a temporary staff of two Assistant Auditors. The temporary staff are acquired on a rotating basis form Memorial University through the University's Cooperative Business Program.

It is the responsibility of the Internal Audit Division, under the direction of the Manager, to perform Internal Social Services Audits to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ensure that all programs within the Department's structure are being administered in accordance with department policy and procedure.
2. To ensure that proper accounting practices and techniques are used to adequately account for department assets and expenditures.
3. To determine that the funds provided by the Department to outside agencies are being utilized in accordance with the approved budget activities for which funds are provided.
4. Analysis of audit findings and recommending, where necessary, improved methods and concepts for the improvement of various phases of department operations.

During 1986-87, there were a total of thirteen audits completed by this division. Eleven of these were District Office audits and the remaining two audits were completed in the program areas of Employment Opportunities and Child Welfare.

Given the present staff complement of the Internal Audit Division and making allowances for various other audit plans, it is the aim of the Division to complete an audit on each District Office at least once every three years. It should also be noted that the Internal Audit Division is available upon request to perform audit-related assignments for any branch of the Department if it is felt that the Division's involvement would be beneficial.

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

During the period under review, Newfoundland has again been very fortunate in that there have been no natural disasters or serious emergency situations that required Emergency Social Services involvement. One incident worthy of note was a meeting with the Division of the Provincial Emergency Measures Organization to discuss the ability of the Central Region of the province to respond to any situations that might arise as a result of major forest fires during the summer months. An overview of all resources that would be available was assessed and discussed.

The Department continues to maintain Regional Emergency Social Services Response Teams in each of the five regions. Some of the larger districts within these regions have established similar district teams.

New Registration and Inquiry cards were received and distributed to the five regional offices. The St. John's Region plans to update the inventory of equipment and supplies on hand and to locate a more appropriate facility in the region in which to store the Emergency Social services supplies. Some Social Services staff in the Eastern Region participated in a mock disaster in one of the towns and assumed responsibility for the five emergency services. One staff member who had taken the course for Special Care Facilities was invited to observe an evacuation exercise at a local nursing home in the district in which she was employed. She observed the evacuation and was able to share some observations with the administrator and staff of the nursing home. In the Central Region, Social Services staff participated in an emergency exercise in the town of Bishops Falls and later received a Certificate of Appreciation from the mayor and councillors.

Many Social Services staff were involved in assisting local municipalities in the development of emergency plans. This entailed identifying the Social Services role in the overall plan and its involvement in the event of a disaster. There continues to be a fair amount of activity in working with organizations and community councils in the development of such emergency plans.

Staff continue to be very appreciative of the emergency training received at the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College, Arnprior.

During the past year, fifteen staff members attended courses at Arnprior as follows:

St. John's Region	4
Eastern Region	4
Central Region	3
Western Region	3
Labrador	1
	15

These courses at Arnprior continue to be extremely valuable to staff in providing them with the knowledge and understanding of the role of social services in the event of a community emergency. Experience has demonstrated that this training has prepared staff to respond appropriately in times of emergencies.

In concluding this brief report, appreciation is extended to Mrs. Lorraine Davies, the Director of Emergency Social Services, Health and Welfare Canada, and her competent staff for their continuing help and support.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE APPEAL BOARD

The duties of the Social Assistance Appeal Board are to render decisions on behalf of applicants for Social Assistance and recipients of Social Assistance who are aggrieved by decisions of an Administrative Review Committee, Regional Director or the Director of Social Assistance.

The Social Assistance Appeal Board is comprised of three members who are not employees of the government of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Each member is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Appointment is for a three-year period and members are eligible for reappointment.

The present members are Mr. A. E. Mifflin, Chairman; Mrs. Ida Reid, Member; and Ms. B. Anne Blake, Member.

Sixteen hearings involving fifty-nine appeals were conducted during the year under review of which six were held in the St. John's Region, two in the Eastern Region, four in the Central Region and four in the Western Region. No appeals were held in the Labrador Region.

The table on the following page shows the distribution of appeals by month and by region and decisions rendered.

DISTRIBUTION OF APPEALS AND DECISIONS BY MONTH AND REGION
FOR YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1987

MONTH	ST. JOHN'S REGION	DECISION UP-HELD	DECISION RE-VERSED	EASTERN REGION	DECISION UP-HELD	DECISION RE-VERSED	CENTRAL REGION	DECISION UP-HELD	DECISION RE-VERSED	WESTERN REGION	DECISION UP-HELD	DECISION RE-VERSED	LABRADOR REGION	DECISION UP-HELD	DECISION RE-VERSED	PROV-INCI TOTAL
APRIL	2	-	2	-	-	-	3	1	2	1	1	-	0	-	-	6
MAY	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	3
JUNE	0	-	-	0	-	-	3	1	2	1	-	1	0	-	-	4
JULY	3	2	1	0	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	0	-	-	6
AUGUST	3	2	1	0	-	-	0	-	-	2	2	-	0	-	-	5
SEPTEMBER	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	2	1	1	0	-	-	2
OCTOBER	2	2	-	1	1	-	4	3	1	0	-	-	0	-	-	7
NOVEMBER	2	1	1	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	2
DECEMBER	0	-	-	0	-	-	5	4	1	1	-	1	0	-	-	6
JANUARY	0	-	-	0	-	-	3	3	-	3	3	-	0	-	-	6
FEBRUARY	0	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	0	-	-	4
MARCH	0	-	-	1	1	-	4	2	2	3	1	2	0	-	-	8
TOTALS	13	7	6	5	4	1	25	17	8	16	11	5	0	-	-	59

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

For the fiscal year 1986-87 there was a great deal of activity in the area of computer systems development in the Department. During the year, the plans for the development of the Social Assistance system were finalized, three major software components were built and there was an extensive project to start the implementation of the communications network. During this year, the first major steps to the eventual computerization of all program areas were taken. Funding for Systems Development was provided by Health and Welfare Canada under a continuing agreement which also covers the fiscal years 1987-88 and 1988-89.

PRIOR CONTACT CHECK

The first major component of the system is a facility called the Prior Contact Check (PCC), which is a computer inquiry system that allows users in any part of the province to access certain data regarding any financial assistance received by a client through the Social Assistance program. In this regard, programs such as Rehabilitation and Child Welfare whose clients receive money through the Social Assistance system are also recorded. This system was initially installed at Headquarters in the Registry and Social Assistance Accounts areas on a pilot or trial basis. Within a very short time, after some system modifications and fine tuning, the system was installed in the St. John's offices (which were already equipped with terminals).

By November of 1986, it was determined that the PCC was acceptable, and it was installed in an additional nine offices. The system was originally designed to accommodate approximately 10,000 inquiries per month; however, the actual usage of the system once it was fully installed exceeded 14,000 on a continuous basis.

LTA AND STA DATA ENTRY

Early in the calendar year of 1986, the specifications for the long-term and short-term data entry systems were finalized. The start of the fiscal year saw the development projects fully underway for these two functions and, in July 1986, the facilities were passed over to the Department for user testing. Due to the complexity of the system and the newness of the technology, the testing took until late in the year; at that time, there were numerous modifications to be made.

Training on the LTA portion of the facility was planned for March and, during a one-week training course, the operators from nine of the "terminal" sites learned how to operate this new system. Due to conversion reasons and the time needed for practice, live data was not actually entered into the system until early in the following fiscal year.

For reasons of volume and complexity, it was decided not to implement the STA portion of the system until well into 1987.

NETWORK

In order to operate the new software, a network of terminals had to be built. It was decided to distribute the network right across the province so as to give the widest possible exposure to the new systems. Nine new sites were equipped with microcomputers which operated only as directly connected terminals. Each office was also equipped with a printer that allowed them to print case status information, reports and other system information. On top of the network, it then became possible to build a rudimentary electronic mail system. The offices that were installed during this year are:

Office	Date Installed
Clarenville	November 1986
Grand Falls	November 1986
Corner Brook	November 1986
Bay Roberts	January 1987
Harbour Grace	January 1987
Piccadilly	January 1987
Stephenville Crossing	January 1987
Lewisporte	January 1987
Botwood	January 1987

From a geographic point of view, this is now the largest network operated by any government department, and future plans are to increase it by at least another eight District Offices and the five Regional Offices.